



# Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation Programme

COLLECTION OF THE DECLARATIONS AND MAIN DOCUMENTS  
ADOPTED BY THE YOUTH MOVEMENT  
SINCE 2007





# NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

2011



COUNCIL OF EUROPE    CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE  
AND SOLIDARITY

## Youth Partnership

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Partnership between the European Commission  
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



EUROPEAN UNION



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# NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE



## Forword

**Almost** four years have passed since the 1<sup>st</sup> Africa Europa Youth Summit took place in Lisbon in early December 2007. It has been my first contact with the Council of Europe North-South Centre, and my first official appearance in my (then new) capacity as Executive Director. And I must say that I have been impressed by the level of enthusiasm, energy and commitment emerging from the 300 young Africans and Europeans who were gathered there. Another thing was quite obvious : there were also high expectations. Something had to be done to meet them!

**This is** why I promised, during the closing session, that we would make sure that this 1st Africa Europe Youth Summit would not remain a "one shot event", but that it would be the start of a process. And I quoted John Lennon who, 40 years ago, "imagined" the following : "You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one – I hope someday you will join us, and the world will live as one".

**Looking** back to what happened during the last four years, and trying to reply honestly to the question : "Did we fulfil this promise?", I am tempted to say : "Yes we did".

**I would** like to recognise and congratulate the Pan African Youth Union (PYU), the European Youth Forum (YFJ), the statutory bodies on Youth of the Council of Europe, the ICMYO, the African Diaspora Youth Network (ADYNE) for carrying with the Centre this political process and the European Commission and the African Union Commission for their constant support and partnership.

**Indeed**, with the financial and political support of the European Commission, and together with all our institutional partners, we have negotiated and set up (in 2008), and then managed, implemented and monitored (since 2009) a comprehensive Euro-African Youth Cooperation Programme, we also manage to organise together a 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Europe Youth Summit. In these almost 4 years we have implemented a programme aiming at: empowering youth organisations; providing training and capacity building to youth leaders; strengthening sub-regional youth structures and youth policies in Africa; profiling the African Youth Charter; promoting Intercultural Dialogue between our two continents and within African and European societies; giving visibility to, and strengthening the networking with, the African Diaspora in Europe; mapping the youth reality in Africa; developing new pedagogical approaches for the training of trainers; strengthening the relationship and cooperation between the two regional institutions at various levels.

**In one word**, we have been bringing today's and tomorrow's Africa and Europe closer together.

**During** the last 4 years close to 1000 youth leaders and youth multipliers in Europe and Africa had a direct access to this programme, which certainly is leaving a very positive foot print in our two regions and contributing to their joint future.

**The programme** continues in 2011 and is being negotiated for the period 2012-14, building on the priorities which emerged from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Europe Youth Summit and implementation the *Africa Europe Action Plan 2012-14* developed by the youth leaders meeting in Addis Ababa in April 2011. In 2012 an important instrument claimed by the youth movement in the Summit declarations, the Africa Europe Youth Platform, will be institutionalized and I wish every success to this new important political actor.

**The North-South** Centre will continue to offer its availability and commitment to walk this path together by implementing a renewed and hopefully reinforced Africa Europe Youth Programme. We will remain faithful to the commitments that European and African youth have made during these years and to their joint priorities.

**In this publication** you can find a collection of the declarations and main documents adopted by the youth movement since 2007 in the Africa Europe Youth Summits, the African Universities on Youth and Development and in various other activities organised by

North-South Centre and its partners in the framework of the *Joint Management Agreement between the EuropeAid office and the North-South Centre and the Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth.*

**These texts** constitute an important political contribution and legacy of the youth movement for the implementation of the EU-Africa Strategic Partnership and the Africa Europe cooperation at large, a source of inspiration and a road map to move forward in this journey.

**To echo** my initial question and answer : "Did we keep our promise? Yes we did", I would like to add an additional one : "Can we go further? Yes we can!".

**And my very last words** will be to quote an African say : "When you travel alone, you can go very fast. But when you travel with a friend, you can go very far."

**Denis Huber**

Executive Director

North-South Centre of the Council of Europe



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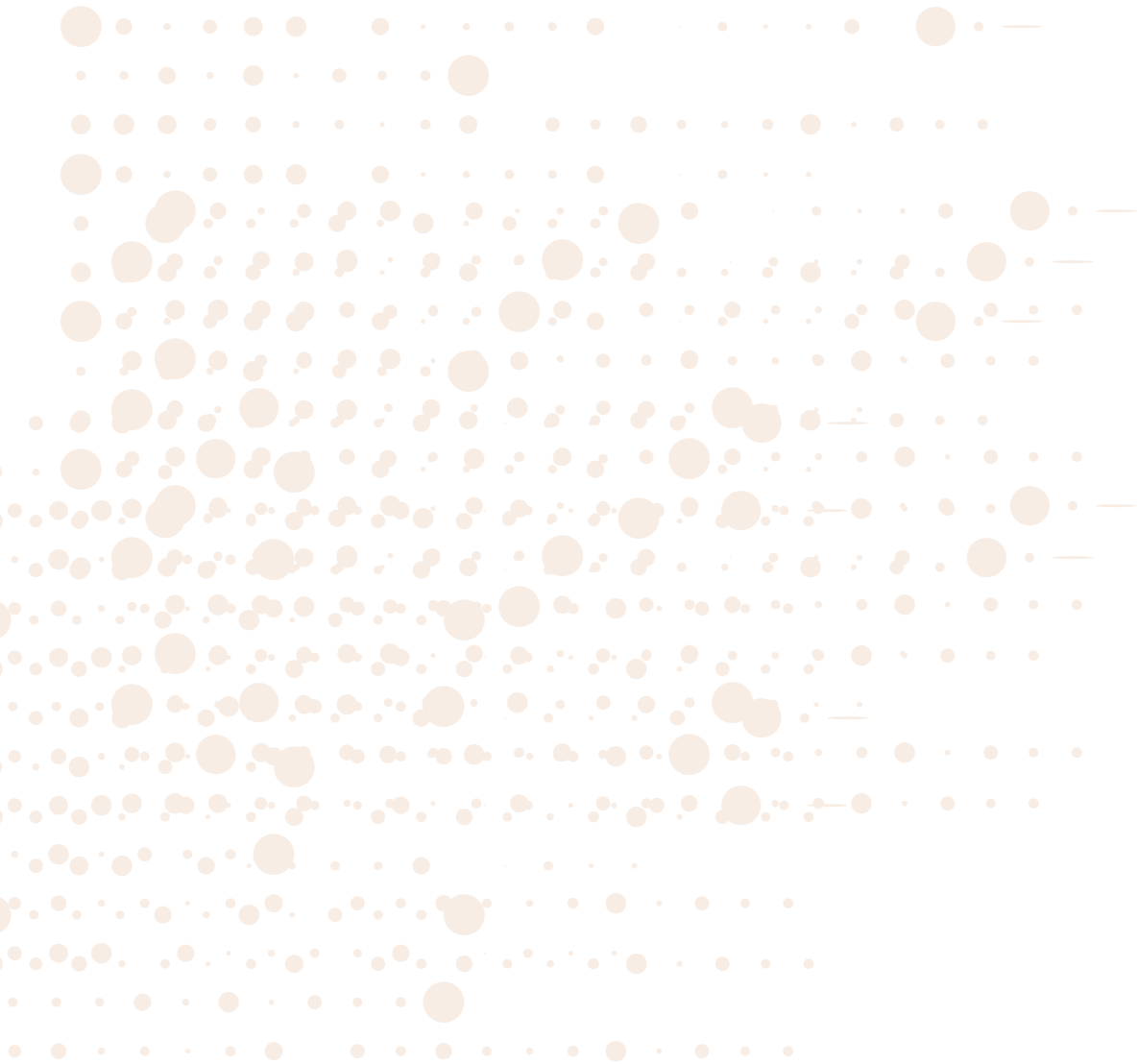
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# NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

## Implementation of the Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation Programme

ACTIVITIES OF THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE AND ACTIVITIES UNDER THE JOINT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION – EUROPEAID COOPERATION OFFICE AND THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IN THE FIELD OF YOUTH

### Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



EUROPEAN UNION



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JOINT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
– EUROPEAID COOPERATION OFFICE AND THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE  
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

## 1. Africa Europe Youth Cooperation: Background information



The **Africa-EU Strategic Partnership**, a framework created by the 2<sup>nd</sup> EU-Africa Heads of States Summit, and the Africa-Europe Youth Summit, both held in December 2007, recognise youth as a key actor in development in Africa and in Europe. The strengthening of youth organisations and youth movements is critical for development in general and in particular for developing youth policies that will allow for sustainable cooperation among African and European youth.

**The Africa Europe Youth Summit**, held in December 2007, preceding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa-EU Summit, the 1<sup>st</sup> Africa-Europe Youth Summit was held in Lisbon, jointly organised by the European Youth Forum, the Pan African Youth Union and the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, in partnership with other international youth organisations and institutions, with the support of the European Commission and the Portuguese Youth Institute and kindly hosted by the Portuguese National Youth Council. Attended by two hundred and fifty representatives from youth organisations in Europe and Africa, including representatives from the African Diaspora living in Europe, the Youth Summit aimed to prepare the contribution of youth organisations into the EU-Africa Summit, to reach an effective framework for dialogue and cooperation between young people and youth organisations from both regions and to contribute to the recognition of the important role they play in the Africa-Europe cooperation.

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Africa-Europe Youth Summit** concluded with a Declaration that stated the main priorities of African and European young people for the Euro-African cooperation, focusing **Poverty eradication: priority for Euro-African Cooperation** and in the following priority themes:

- ① Achieving the Millennium Development Goals
- ② Bringing Good Governance and Democracy
- ③ Ensuring Peace and fighting Conflict

- ◉ Tackling Globalisation, Trade and Socio-Economic Development
- ◉ Managing Climate Change and Sustainable Development
- ◉ Our Common Fight for Decent Work Agenda and Employment
- ◉ Addressing Migration, Mobility, Intercultural Dialogue and Co-development
- ◉ Strategies and Instruments for Euro-African Youth Participation and Cooperation

**The Final** Declaration was submitted to the EU-Africa Heads of State Summit by two youth representatives from Africa and Europe.

**With the Youth Summit**, good progress was made in increasing the dialogue and cooperation between African and European young people and youth organisations, empowering them to act in partnership and to contribute to the Africa-Europe cooperation.

**As a follow-up** of the Africa-Europe Youth Summit in 2007, the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe has been developing and implementing a programme in partnership with the European Union (particularly DG EAC and DG AidCO), the African Union and key governmental and non-governmental actors in Africa and Europe, including the European Youth Forum and the African Youth Platforms such as the Pan African Youth Union.

**The Programme** aimed at answering to the priorities of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership, the Joint Management Agreement will:

- ◉ promote the empowerment of Europe's and Africa's youth
- ◉ strengthen young people's capacity to disseminate information and to get involved in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Joint Strategy
- ◉ facilitate moments of encounter and exchange between young Africans and Europeans
- ◉ help mapping the existing African youth networks.

**In this sense**, the North-South Centre has co-operated with the European Commission (Europe Aid, DG Development and DG Education and Culture) in order to secure a sustainable process for collaboration which will provide important support of various (youth) structures, quality, reassurance and funding for Africa-Europe youth work.

**In November** 2010, a Second Africa Europe Youth Summit was organised shadowing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa-EU Summit of Heads of State providing continuity to the political framework of the Africa Europe Youth Cooperation.

## 2. The creation of the Follow-up Programme and Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation Activities in 2008

**With the Africa Europe Youth Summit** happening in December 2007, the year of 2008 was a transitional yet very intense year at the level of the institutional cooperation in order to create sustainable instruments and a framework to implement Africa-Europe Youth cooperation activities. During the year the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe together with the main youth partners engaged in negotiations with the European Commission and as result two administrative instruments for Africa Europe Youth cooperation were created:

- ♥ In the framework of the **Partnership on Youth between the Council of Europe and the European Union (DGEAC)** it was included a programme of Euro-African training activities and support measures that has been implemented since 2009

[www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/JMA/JMA\\_Youth\\_EN.asp#Youth\\_Partnership\\_Activities](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/JMA/JMA_Youth_EN.asp#Youth_Partnership_Activities)

- ♥ In November 2008, the North-South Centre and the European Commission (EuropeAid) signed a **Joint Management Agreement** for a period of three years (2009-2011) that aims at strengthening global education in the new Member States of the European Union and supporting Africa-Europe youth cooperation.

[www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/JMA/JMA\\_Youth\\_EN.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/JMA/JMA_Youth_EN.asp)

### FIFTH AFRICA EUROPE TRAINING COURSE – COIMBRA, PORTUGAL, 1 TO 8 JUNE 2008

**Encouraged** by the success and demand of the previous Africa Europe Training Courses (2002-Tarrafal, Cape Verde; 2004-Mollina, Spain, 2005-Coimbra, Portugal, 2006-Almada, Portugal) and the demand for capacity building opportunities for youth leaders expressed in the Africa Europe Youth Summit, the North-South Centre continued to invest in organising a capacity building space for youth organisations from Africa and Europe, organising this course for the 5<sup>th</sup> time, in partnership with the European Youth Forum.

**During** the course participants acquired knowledge and skills to develop the capacity of their organisations in the development process, learning of different models of capacity-building in order to strengthen their political participation on poverty eradication and social cohesion on the Euro-African Context.

**This was** a week-long course involving 35 youth leaders, designed using a process of mutual learning, with participants' experiences at the starting point of the training process. Active participation and

in-depth reflection were the key methodologies used in the course – methodologies that have proven successful in similar courses previously.

**The course** provided an excellent space for networking and finding partners; this dimension was most strongly encouraged by the team of trainers as well as for intercultural dialogue and Intercultural learning.

**Furthermore**, the course was a unique moment of practical and political follow up and implementation of some of the outcomes of the Africa Europe Youth Summit held in parallel to the 2<sup>nd</sup> EU-Africa Summit of heads of State held in December 2007 and of the new framework for cooperation established by the Africa – EU Strategic Partnership.



### 3. Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation Activities in 2009

**2009 saw** the launch and first year of implementation of the Africa Europe Youth Cooperation Programme. The new programme is a follow-up to the Africa Europe Youth Summit organised in Lisbon in December 2007 on the initiative of the North-South Centre and foresees a number of activities to be held during the period 2009-2011 in the framework of both the Joint Management Agreement with the European Commission and the new Euro African dimension of the Youth Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission.

**The official** launch of the Africa Europe Youth Cooperation Programme took place through the first meeting of the Monitoring Group in the North-South Centre premises in Lisbon on 4 February. The monitoring group is composed of the Pan African Youth Union, the European Youth Forum, the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe, the African Union Commission, the European Commission and is facilitated by the North-South Centre.

### 3.1 Activities carried out in 2009 under the Partnership on Youth between the Council of Europe and the European Union



#### FIRST AFRICAN UNIVERSITY ON YOUTH AND DEVELOPMENT TARRAFAL, CAPE VERDE 12-19 JUNE

**On 12-19 June**, it was implemented the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Africa-Europe Training Course for youth organisations for 30 youth leaders from Africa and Europe, carried under the Youth Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission. This course was held at the First Edition of the African University on Youth and Development in Tarrafal, Cape Verde, in partnership with the National Youth Council of Portugal, the Cape Verde Federation of Youth, the European Youth Forum and the Pan-African Youth Union. The University was supported by the European Commission, the Government of Cape Verde and the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP) and brought together approximately 100 youth leaders from Africa and Europe to Tarrafal.

**The training** course aimed to strengthen the role of youth organisations as civil society actors and youth ability to organise and take action as well as strengthen its political participation and to identify educational principles to promote the global citizenship of young people in Europe and Africa. This aim was largely fulfilled by the course that benefited from the human, political and participatory framework created by the University. **The main objectives of the course were fulfilled:** Building capacity of close to 30 youth leaders and multipliers in youth organisations in Africa and Europe; Increase dialogue and understanding between young people, and their organisations, in European and African countries. Launch the preparations for the second Africa Europe Youth Summit. During the Course the participants had the opportunity to exchange and be intensively exposed to the Cape Verdean Political context.



**West African Sub-regional Seminar on youth policies and the African Youth Charter 12-17 June 2009.** Within the African University, 12-17 June 2009 it was organised the **West Africa Sub-regional Seminar on youth policies and the African Youth Charter**, this was the first of the 5 sub-regional Seminars to be carried out in the framework of the aforementioned NSC/EC Joint Management Agreement. The aims of the seminar, which was a follow-up to the Africa-Europe Youth Summit, were to bring together state actors and youth organisations to reflect on the developments of national and local youth policies in Africa; to promote the African Youth Charter and its ratification and implementation; to strengthen the capacity of state and non-state actors to develop integrated youth policies using co-management principles; and to strengthen the regional integration of youth organisations and networks in the five building blocks of the African Union.

**LONG TERM TRAINING COURSE FOR TRAINERS ON AFRICA-EUROPE  
YOUTH COOPERATION, FIRST RESIDENTIAL SEMINAR  
GRAND BASSAM (IVORY COAST) ON 12-19 JULY**



**Also in the framework** of the Youth Partnership, it was launched the **long term training course on Africa-Europe youth cooperation**. A first seminar took place in Grand Bassam (Ivory Coast) on 12-19 July, with the objective of building a learning framework for thirty trainers from Africa and Europe. The first Seminar also launched the Learning and Communication Virtual Platform (LCVP) and the Practice/project phase.

## TRAINING COURSE FOR YOUTH LEADERS OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA LIVING IN EUROPE, IN ALMADA, PORTUGAL, 6-12 DECEMBER 2009

**Finally**, on 6-12 December 2009, in the framework of the Youth Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission, it was organised the Training **Course for Youth Leaders of the African Diaspora Living in Europe**, in Almada, Portugal. The training course offered the participants the opportunity to learn about the existence of different youth organizations involving African Diaspora in their strategies in different countries. The course was held together with other training activities organised by Portuguese National Youth Council. More than 60 representatives of youth organisations and youth groups from the African Diaspora living in Europe shared their common vision of Africa and Europe before discussing the challenges the Diaspora is facing and developing intercultural learning and inter-regional experiences. The training course was linked to the Europe-Africa Youth Leaders Training Project, organised by the Portuguese National Youth Council. In the final declaration, the participants realised that there is a lack of information of different projects available for immigrants at national and international levels and suggested to create an official network.

### 3.2 Activities carried out in 2009 under Joint Management Agreement



### INSTITUTIONAL FOLLOW-UP MEETING OF THE AFRICA-EUROPE YOUTH SUMMIT — LISBON 28-29 APRIL 2009

An **institutional follow-up meeting of the Africa-Europe Youth Summit** took place on 28-29 April in Lisbon. This meeting brought together all the partners and stakeholders responsible for the implementation of the new Euro-Africa Cooperation Programme. The second meeting of the monitoring group took place on 30-31 October in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) to monitor the implementation progress in 2009 and discuss the activities foreseen in 2010.

## EAST AFRICA SUB-REGIONAL SEMINAR ON YOUTH POLICIES AND THE AFRICAN YOUTH CHARTER ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 1-3 NOVEMBER 2010

**On 1-3 November**, the North-South Centre implemented with the Pan African Youth Union the East Africa sub-regional (East Africa) seminar on youth policies and the African Youth Charter in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia). Giving also an opportunity to the partners to visit the Head Quarters of the African Union and celebrate the African Youth day in Addis Ababa.

**This seminar** was also preceded by the second meeting of the Monitoring group meeting of the Africa Europe Youth Cooperation.

### 4. Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation Activities in 2010

#### 4.1 Activities carried out in 2010 under the Partnership on Youth between the Council of Europe and the European Union

##### SEVENTH AFRICA-EUROPE TRAINING COURSE FOR YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

**On 23-30 May**, the Centre organised the 7<sup>th</sup> Africa Europe Training Course for Youth Organisations in Polokwane, Limpopo, South Africa, in the framework of the **Youth Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Union**, in cooperation with the Africa Institute of South Africa, the European Youth Forum and the Pan African Youth Union. Thirty-five European and African youth leaders and activists engaged in youth organisations participated in this event which was aimed at promoting the capacity of youth organisations to take part in the EU-Africa Strategic Partnership and particularly to prepare and give input to the upcoming second Africa-Europe Youth Summit, to be held in the framework of the 3<sup>rd</sup> EU-Africa Summit of Heads of State.

**The participants** of the Training Course drafted a declaration that is expected to be the basis of the input to be presented for consideration to the Heads of States at the 3<sup>rd</sup> African-European Heads of States Summit due to take place in Libya on 29-30 November. The declaration contains recommendations which call for the urgent need to address challenging issues that are affecting the lives and wellbeing of the youth in Africa and Europe. The recommendation also calls for the need for the active participation of youth in decision-making.

## SECOND TRAINING COURSE FOR YOUTH LEADERS OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA LIVING IN EUROPE

**The second Training Course for Youth Leaders of the African Diaspora Living in Europe**, took place in Cape Verde, from the 4-12 July, in the framework of the 2<sup>nd</sup> African University on Youth and Development. It had similar programme elements as the first course and it had an important role in promoting more synergies between people and youth organisations to further develop the networking and the African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe. A Steering Group of ADYNE had been identified and they had the chance to share aims and objectives of the network as well as reflections about membership, internal structure and priorities for 2010-2011.

**The profiles** of participants from both courses were very diverse; representing students' organisations, migrants' organisations, second generation, refugees and others. This background represents the richness and diversity but also complexity of developing such an exercise of building a network.

## LONG TERM TRAINING COURSE FOR TRAINERS ON AFRICA EUROPE YOUTH COOPERATION

**The Second Residential and last Seminar of the Long Term Training Course for Trainers on Africa Europe Youth Cooperation** took place in the framework of the 2<sup>nd</sup> African University on Youth and Development, in Cape Verde, 4-12 July. This concluded the training Cycle that lasted close to a year for a group of 30 committed and qualified trainers. This cycle included the two residential Seminars, a project implementation phase and a Learning Community Virtual Platform (LCVP). As result of this Training process the participant trainers created a community of trainers: Trainers for Africa Europe Cooperation, TAEC.

**This one-year** project is well documented although not yet systematised. Together with the Community of Trainers (TAEC) has as follow-up element the development of a training booklet that is been developed by the participants themselves. These trainers are offering their resources and expertise for Africa Europe cooperation. The community of trainers continues the networking through an on-line virtual community of learning and practices. The trainers have already offered their services to assist in the facilitation process of the up-coming II Africa Europe Youth Summit.

## PREPARATIONS OF THE II AFRICA EUROPE YOUTH SUMMIT

In the lead up to the **2<sup>nd</sup> Africa-Europe Youth Summit**, a **Steering Group** has been formed to prepare the Summit, namely to oversee the link between the Heads of State Summit, to define the criteria of participation, to select the participants and to develop the programme of the Summit. The steering group is composed of the European Youth Forum, the Pan-African Youth Union, ICMYO organisations, the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe, the European Union, the African Union, the European Steering Group on Youth of the Council of Europe and the local organisers: National Organization of Libya Youth (NOLY) has confirmed its commitment as a local partner. After a first informal meeting of the Steering Group held in July (during the 2<sup>nd</sup> African University on Youth and Development), a 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of this steering group was organised on 19 September in the framework of the 11th University on Youth and Development and a third meeting was organised in Tripoli, Libya, 6-7 November 2010. The Partnership on Youth between the Council of Europe and the European Union has been co-financing the preparatory work of the second Summit and the work of the Steering group.

### **4.2 Other Africa Europe Youth Activities by the North-South Centre and activities carried out in 2010 under Joint Management Agreement**

#### **SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGIONAL SEMINAR ON YOUTH POLICIES AND THE AFRICAN YOUTH CHARTER — LUANDA, ANGOLA, 29 MARCH-1 APRIL 2010**

**On 29 March-1 April**, the North-South Centre co-organised, with the Angolan National Youth Council (NYC), a **southern African regional seminar on youth policies and the African Youth Charter** in Luanda, Angola, hosted by the National Youth Council of Angola, and in close cooperation with the Pan-African Youth Union. The seminar, which took place in the framework of the Joint Management Agreement between the North-South Centre and the European Commission, brought together representatives from around 10 southern African countries, and focused its discussions on the importance of national youth councils and the implementation of the African Youth Charter, in particular in view of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Europe-Africa Youth Summit which will take place in November 2010.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> AFRICAN UNIVERSITY ON YOUTH AND DEVELOPMENT, CAPE VERDE, 4-12 JULY



**On 4-12 July**, the North-South Centre held the **2<sup>nd</sup> African University on Youth and Development**. This event was organised in partnership with the Cape Verde Federation of Youth, the Portuguese National Youth Council, the Pan-African Youth Union, the European Youth Forum and the Youth Forum of Portuguese Speaking Countries, with the political and financial support of the European Commission, Luxembourg and Portugal.

**The aim** of the university was to create a space for debate and reflection; affirmative youth action and the promotion of youth policies; global education and awareness raising for development; training and non-formal education; as well as intercultural and inter-regional dialogue in the context of Euro-African youth cooperation. The University was the opportunity to bring together youth organizations and their elected representatives from Africa and Europe, to share, to learn and to participate. This learning space has been a successful example for the possibilities of the implementation of the Africa-EU Strategic partnership. This year's university also created a momentum in Africa-Europe cooperation, in view of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa-EU Summit to be held in November.

The **11<sup>th</sup> University on Youth and Development** took place between 12-19 September, dedicated to the theme "Sustainable development and how it relates to human rights and fundamental freedom". The North-South Centre organised the University in cooperation with the Spanish Government (INJUVE), the European Youth Forum (YFJ), the Spanish Youth Council (CJE) and other international youth organisations. Around 250 participants from a variety of 80 countries attended this year's university, which was also held in the context of the UN International Year of Youth. In the context of University several activities took place with the aim to promote Africa Europe Youth Cooperation:



**The seminar on African Diaspora youth living in Europe – “Inclusion has to come from inside – the role of youth organisations”** brought together 40 youth leaders coming from around Europe that worked on the theme of how to empower young African migrants and young people with an African migrant background to better represent their interests in our society, discussing the role and challenges of youth organisations and youth networks in this process. It was also a space for reflection on ways to fulfill the current gap of youth Diasporas and of the African youth Diaspora in particular, regarding their representation in existing youth organisations and other structures involved in decision-making of youth policies. The meeting had also the purpose of promoting dialogue between youth and African Diaspora organisations and to provide a better integration of young African migrants and youth with African background into European societies and to recognise them as key development actors for European and African societies. As a concrete result the ADYNE network was constituted during the seminar.

### MONITORING GROUP FOR THE AFRICA-EUROPE YOUTH COOPERATION PAIN, 17 SEPTEMBER 2010

**Moreover**, the **Monitoring Group for the Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation** met on 17 September in the framework of the University, to observe and monitor the implementation of the Africa Europe Youth Activities inscribed in the Joint Management Agreement as well as the Euro African training activities inscribed in the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth, to act as a think-tank on Euro African Youth Cooperation, and to guide the efforts on Africa Europe Youth Cooperation. It consists of representatives from the Pan-African Youth Union, the European Youth Forum, the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe, the Steering Committee on Youth of the Council of Europe, the African Union Commission, and the European Commission.

## 5. Africa Europe Youth Cooperation Activities in 2011

### II AFRICA EUROPE YOUTH SUMMIT, TRIPOLI, LIBYA, 25-28 NOVEMBER 2011

**The 2<sup>nd</sup>** Africa-Europe Youth Summit was held in Tripoli, Libya, on 25-28 November, preceding the 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa-EU Summit, at the same location, on 29-30 November.

**The Summit** was designed to offer to young people and youth organisations from Africa and Europe the opportunity to strengthen their dialogue and cooperation on regional and global issues and to promote their meaningful participation in the Euro-African cooperation, contributing to the further development of the Africa-EU strategic partnership. The event was organised by the European Youth Forum, the Pan-African Youth Union, ICMYO organisations and the National Organization of Libyan Youth, with the support of the European Union and the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe.

**The 2<sup>nd</sup>** Africa-Europe Youth Summit also provided an opportunity to address the core challenges and strengthen the dialogue and cooperation between the two continents on regional and global issues, contributing to the further development of the Africa-Europe cooperation, namely the Africa-EU strategic partnership.

**The 2<sup>nd</sup>** Africa-Europe Youth Summit gathered together over one hundred youth representatives of National Youth Councils and International Non-Governmental Youth organizations from Africa and Europe, including youth representatives from the African Diaspora.

**The key** areas of the Africa-Europe Cooperation identified and discussed during the Youth Summit were: Millennium Development Goals; Good governance and democracy; Peace and conflict; Globalisation, trade and socio-economic development; Climate change and sustainable development; Migration, mobility, intercultural dialogue and co-development; Employment and the decent work agenda.

**Based upon** the progress achieved since 2007, at the conclusion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa-Europe Youth Summit participants produced an outcome document, named the [Tripoli Declaration](#), containing recommendations on the involvement of young people and youth organisations in the implementation of such priority areas.

### CENTRAL AFRICAN SUB-REGIONAL SEMINAR ON YOUTH POLICIES AND THE AFRICAN YOUTH CHARTER

**The Central** Africa Sub-Regional Seminar on Youth Policies and the African Youth Charter took place in Libreville, Gabon, from 10 till 13<sup>th</sup> March 2011 and aimed to provide a strategic guideline on how to use the skills, energy and innovation of young people and ensure an environment conducive to successful development objectives, constructive leadership, participation and autonomy of the youth.

**The Conference** focused on the following key themes: youth policies, programmes and institutions in Central Africa; youth's socio-economic autonomy; youth's rights, social inclusion and participation; youth's development, health and well-being; and the role of youth to achieve the MDGs.



**The Central** Africa Sub-Regional Seminar on Youth Policies and the African Youth Charter also provided a general overview of the current state of art of resources mobilised in the field of youth development in the Central African region.

**Acknowledging** the need of a more holistic and positive approach to global development and poverty reduction, participants at the conference also discussed the potential of youth to positively contribute to a change in their society. Youth's mobility, polyvalence, openness, dynamism, creativity and spirit of innovation were identified and discussed as key competences, which need to be strengthened to enhance youth's role as agents for a global development.

### YOUTH LEADERS MEETING ON YOUTH POLICIES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE AFRICA-EUROPE YOUTH COOPERATION ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 10-13 APRIL 2011



**The "Youth Leaders** Meeting on Youth Policies in the Context of the Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation" took place in Addis Ababa on 10-13 April 2011. The event was organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe (NSC), together with the European Youth Forum (YFJ), the Pan-African Youth Union (PYU), the African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe (ADYNE), under the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth. African coordination's of ICMYO member organisations strongly involved in Africa Europe Cooperation were also involved in the Meeting.

**It was** organised with the aim to give space to youth leaders to build a common action plan on the development of the Africa-Europe youth dialogue and cooperation framework, and on the implementation of the recommendations resulting from the Africa-Europe Youth Summits. Therefore it represented also an opportunity to contribute to setting out priorities and producing action-oriented outcomes, in the context of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy and the EU, Council of Europe and African Union regional and national youth policies.

**The meeting** will be held immediately after the African Youth Forum, to be held also in Addis Ababa, from the 1 to 9 April, this was the Pre-Summit side event to the Summit heads of State of the AU to be held in July 2011 devoted to the theme: "Accelerate Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development". The proximity of these meetings and of the actors involved is also an outstanding opportunity to generate synergies with this important process of the African Union and the African Youth.

**Participants** who took part to the meeting discussed and agreed on a common action plan for the development of the Africa-Europe Youth dialogue and cooperation for the period of 2012-2015, as well as on the establishment of the Africa Europe Youth Platform, with the specific aim to prepare/coordinate, monitor, implement, evaluate and give a follow up to the Africa-Europe Youth cooperation.

**Furthermore** they identified the priority areas and actions for the implementation of the proposals and commitments made in the Youth Summits, as follows: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals; Common Fight for Decent Work for Young People; Managing Climate Change and Sustainable Development; Addressing Migration, Mobility, Intercultural Dialogue and Co-Development; Bringing Good Governance and Democracy; Tackling Globalisation, Trade and Socio-economic Development and Ensuring Peace – Fighting Conflict.

### THIRD AFRICAN UNIVERSITY ON YOUTH AND DEVELOPMENT CAPE VERDE, 15-21 MAY 2011

**The 3<sup>rd</sup>** African University on Youth and Development, organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of



Europe, the Portuguese National Youth Council (CNJ), the Cape-verdian Youth Federation (FCVJ), took place in

Ilha do Sal, Cape Verde, from 15 till 21 May 2011, bringing together leaders of the main world youth movements with the aim of promoting youth participation in decision-making processes and to elaborate cooperation policies for Global Development.

**The main** objectives of the AUYPD were to create a political space where youth can affirm and receive recognition for their role in Euro-African cooperation, particularly in implementing the Strategic Partnership EU-Africa; to provide a space for raising awareness on development issues and global education, training, non-formal

education and intercultural dialogue for youth leaders; To facilitate the process of defining and implementing youth projects within the Euro-African cooperation and Global Youth cooperation and promoting youth policies.

**The University** programme consisted of four parallel activities: the Global Youth Work Training Course, the training for trainers on Global Education, the Meeting of the Monitoring Group on Euro-African Youth Cooperation, and the Cape-Verdean Youth Federation Training on Global Education.

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> AU YD** was organised with the support and partnership of the Government of Cape Verde, the Pan-African Youth Union, the European Youth Forum the Community of Portuguese speaking countries, the Portuguese Institute for Aid Development, the Youth in Action Programme of the European Commission and the Joint Management Agreement between EuropeAid and the North-South Centre.

### MONITORING GROUP FOR THE AFRICA-EUROPE YOUTH COOPERATION ILHA DO SAL, CAPE VERDE, 16 MAY 2011

**The Monitoring** Group for the Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation met on 16 May 2011 in the framework of the Third African University on Youth and Development, for the periodical monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Africa-Europe Youth Activities inscribed in the Joint Management Agreement and in the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth, with the general aim to further enhance the efforts on Africa Europe Youth Cooperation.

**During the Meeting**, the members of the Monitoring Group have discussed the implementation of the activities under the Africa-Europe Youth Programme since February 2011 and namely the II Africa-Europe Youth Summit and its related Evaluation Meeting, the Youth Leaders Meeting on Youth Policies in the context of Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation, the Central Africa Sub-Regional Seminar on Youth Policies and the African Youth Charter and the Seed Funding programme.

**The Meeting** also focused on the following upcoming activities: the Diaspora and MDGs Seminar (which will take place in the framework of the 12<sup>th</sup> University on Youth and Development), the Institutional Meeting on Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation, the Northern African Sub-Regional Seminar on Youth Policies and the African Youth Charter, as well as the implementation of the Mapping on Africa-Europe Youth Work. Finally the Plan of Action for the Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation 2012-2015 and the constitution of the Africa-Europe Youth Platform were also discussed

items, being these last two the main outcomes of the [Youth Leaders Meeting on Youth Policies in the context of the Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation, which took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 10-13th April 2011.](#)

**Seminar for Youth Leaders of the African Diaspora Living in Europe on the theme "From Millennium Development Goals to Millennium Development Wins" at the [Twelfth University on Youth and Development – Mollina, Spain, 18-25 September 2011.](#)**

**The University** on Youth and Development is an activity jointly organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, the Spanish Government (INJUVE), the European Youth Forum (YFJ), the Spanish Youth Council (CJE) and other international youth organisations.

**This year's** edition of the University will be held from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> September 2011 and, on the occasion of the International Year of Volunteers + 10 (IYV+10) 2011 and the European Year of Volunteering 2011, will be held around the promotion of awareness of youth volunteering for Global Development and joining efforts to give visibility and engage into a debate about **Youth Volunteering for Global Development.**

During the 12<sup>th</sup> University on Youth and Development, the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe is organising in cooperation with the African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe (ADYNE) a **Seminar for Youth Leaders of the African Diaspora Living in Europe on the theme "From Millennium Development Goals to Millennium Development Wins"**. The Seminar is organised in the framework of the Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth.

Acknowledging the strategic role of the African Diaspora Youth in Europe to contribute to effectively address the MDGs agenda and re-launching the campaign efforts, the Seminar aims to be a forum and space to discuss, identify and propose how African Diaspora Youth in Europe can start to address the MDGs agenda and come up with actions that can convert some of the aspirations and requirements to deliverables and develop a stronger and effective network of African Diaspora youth in Europe as part of the solution to the MDG agendas.

## 6. Seed Funding for Africa Europe Youth Cooperation



**Seed Funding** for Africa Europe Youth Cooperation is a grant allocation intended to promote Africa Europe youth exchanges, networking and political participation of non-state actors. It aims at funding initiatives which provides the possibility for youth leaders, youth workers, experts and trainers to participate in Euro African Youth activities and youth exchanges projects. The grants are of a maximum 2000€ per project/organisation.

**The seed** funding aims to strengthen the role of young organisations as civil society actors and youth (leaders') ability to organise and take action as well as strengthen young people's political participation in Euro-African cooperation.

**Over 20** projects mostly from African youth organisations and organisations from the African Diaspora living in Europe have already been funded in 2010 and 2011.

**Those interested** in applying to the seed funding can now access to the information and application form in the website of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe. ([www.nscentre.org](http://www.nscentre.org)).

## 7. Mapping Africa Europe Youth Work

The need of Mapping of the Africa Europe Youth Work and help mapping the existing African youth networks has been identified as a priority in the **Africa-EU Strategic Partnership**. In the framework of the Joint Management agreement the North-South Centre has been collecting data for this exercise. A output in the format of "on line resource centre" is foreseen for 2012.

## 8. Monitoring Group Africa Europe Youth Cooperation

**With the** purpose of the monitoring the implementation of the programme for Africa-Europe youth cooperation and to allow for a more regular contact and exchange between the regional youth platforms and institutions from Europe and Africa a monitoring group was established. These regular monitoring meetings will provide the space for updated feedback and direct participation in the preparation and organisation of different actions foreseen. In order to monitor and evaluate the implementation, this monitoring group met 4 times since the Africa Europe Youth Summit, in Lisbon (February 2009), in Addis Ababa (November 2009), in Mollina, Spain (September 2010) and in Cape Verde (May 2011) looking into the follow-up of the II Africa Europe Youth Summit.

**This monitoring** group was composed by the Pan African Youth Union, the European Youth Forum, the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe, the European Steering Group on Youth, The African Diaspora Youth Network Europe (ADYNE), the African Union Commission, the European Commission and facilitated by the North-South Centre.



**Africa-Europe Youth Summit**  
**Sommet Afrique-Europe de la Jeunesse**  
**Cimeira de Juventude África-Europa**

**final declaration**

**For a Better Africa**  
**For a Better Europe**  
**For a Better World**

5-7 DECEMBER 2007 — LISBON, PORTUGAL

**Representatives** of youth organisations from Africa and Europe, have met from 5 to 7 December 2007 in Lisbon, Portugal at the Africa-Europe Youth Summit, on the eve of the 2<sup>nd</sup> EU –Africa Summit of Heads of State.

**We have** gathered here to join together in a partnership for development. We firmly believe that the young generation are positive agents for change in strengthening the partnership and setting forth a progressive agenda of cooperation.

**We welcome** the 2<sup>nd</sup> EU –Africa Summit of Heads of State and want to use this rare political momentum to express our commitment to act as valuable resource and answer to the present and future challenges of our societies, firmly convinced that equal chances for participation of all young women and men, is a prerequisite for the development of our two continents and of humankind as a whole. We maintain that young people should participate in the decisions taken today about the resources and priorities of tomorrow.

**The Declaration** agreed upon at the Youth Summit signifies the hopes, concerns and the reflections of many more than those who have gathered here. It includes the voices of all those who took part in the different moments of encounter and consultation held at the continental, sub-continental and national levels in Africa and in Europe.



**We truly** believe that peace, social progress, economic prosperity and political stability are only possible through the mobilisation, participation and acknowledgment of the capacities of young people. To this end we urge all actors to ensure a society in which young people can reach their full potential and become active partners.

**Acknowledging** that as result of historical, cultural, and political discrimination, girls and young women are still under-represented, underpaid, sexually exploited and face fewer opportunities than boys and young men, and therefore are far from seeing their fundamental Human Rights ensured, we insist on the importance of mainstreaming gender in all the policies and action plans within the Euro-Africa cooperation.

**Recalling** the relevant provisions in the World Programme of Action for Youth for the Year 2000 and Beyond, in the African Youth Charter, and in the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes and the Braga Youth Action Plan, we stress that youth empowerment and participation in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the policies that mostly affect young people must be consolidated, particularly in the field of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

**Acknowledging** as well that youth organisations have been for many years at the forefront in building equal partnership between Europe and Africa through formal and non-formal education programme in the field of peace, health, AIDs, decent work, active citizenship and participation.

**We firmly** believe that the participation and cooperation of empowered young men and women from our respective regions is crucial in the policies and action plans included in the EU-Africa Strategy. With this opportunity to come together, we call upon the African and European Youth, our governments and institutions to work together with us to carry out these commitments and make our vision of Euro African Cooperation a reality.

*To this end we declare that:*

**The commitment** to achieving the Millennium Development Goals must be bolstered as they provide a framework for development and poverty eradication, especially in Africa. In doing so governments must step up their commitment in achieving at least 0.7% of the GNP<sup>1</sup> of ODA<sup>2</sup>. As youth organisations we reiterate our commitment to

<sup>1</sup>GNP: Gross National Product

<sup>2</sup>ODA: Official Development Assistance



raising awareness about and contributing to the achievement of the MDGs by 2015, especially HIV/AIDS. And gender equality.

**Regional** integration processes reinforce good governance and democracy in both regions. We urge all government to condemn all forms of regimes that violate the EU Treaties and the AU Constitutive Act. Human rights are universal and we urge governments to guarantee political rights as well as cultural, social and economical rights for all.

**Peace** and human security is a pre-requisite for socio-economic development. We call to mind the commitments of our governments to the rule of law, UN principles related to human rights and peace and security, and we restate the contribution of youth organisations to building a culture of peace by promoting dialogue, along with the role young people play in preventative measures, reconciliation processes and in post-conflict rehabilitation.

**Globalisation** and the current trade and financial regulations and aid Policies have failed to contribute to a more equitable society and sustainable development particularly in the African Continent. We reaffirm our commitment to participatory public policies and programmes aiming at tackling the impact of globalisation. In doing so we urge our governments to live up to their commitments related to fair trade, debt cancellation and aid for trade.

**We firmly** believe that the protection of the environment can go hand in hand with the development process. We recognize the need to improve international cooperation in implementing environmental-related protocols and agreements. The struggle to cease environmental degradation and stop the process of global warming is a political priority and all efforts must be made to achieve a post-Kyoto agreement.

**The emigration** of young skilled Africans represents a brain-drain challenge affecting the whole continent. On the other hand, immigrants face problems of integration and prejudice. We call upon governments to work in partnership with youth organisations to formulate progressive and rights based policies on migrants, refugees and IDPs<sup>3</sup> in order to safeguard any exploitation of migrants and ensure their integration into society as a whole. We urge governments to put in place and fully enforce severe punitive measures against human trafficking associated with clandestine immigration.

<sup>3</sup> IDPs: Internally Displaced Persons

**The global** challenge of assuring decent work for all is immense. We pledge to be involved in a genuine global partnership with governments to ensure the creation of concrete economic and social policy, which allow for young people to acquire decent work. We firmly believe that decent work must be at the heart of the development agenda and respect for core labour standards must be the foundation.

**We are** convinced that a meaningful EU-Africa Partnership should be based on a strategic project and programme of action for young people to strengthen our partnership for development.

**Political Will Is Vital.** We therefore call on the Heads of State and Government, the EU, the AU and the Council of Europe to invest on empowering young people, on strengthening the youth structures and on removing the obstacles to mobility i.e. Visas, in order to improve participation and cooperation between African and European youth, thus contributing to the advancement of our continents.

#### **FOR A BETTER AFRICA-FOR A BETTER EUROPE FOR A BETTER WORLD**

**We have** gathered here to join together in a partnership for development. We firmly believe that the young generation are the positive agents for change in strengthening the partnership and setting forth a progressive agenda of cooperation. Our partnership is not one that is just about today's youth but should pave the way for a better world for future generations. We firmly believe that another world is possible. Our cooperation is based on an equal partnership of mutual respect and understanding and in this spirit we recommend the following:





## ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS IS OUR PRIORITY

**We acknowledge** that the MDGs constitute the main globally agreed development agenda and underline the importance of their outreach as warranty to secure the right for personal and collective development of young people, particularly in developing countries. We recall their interdependent nature and their fundamental contribution for global awareness for development priorities.

**We express** our grave concerns with the state of implementation of the MDGs. We stress that there are sufficient human, financial and technical resources available for the achievement of the goals and that a strong renewed commitment of governments is needed to meet this challenge.

**We call** on governments to give a clear plan with specific targets, agenda and accountability of the MDGs' implementation.

**We urge** the governments and intergovernmental organisations to involve and empower the youth organisations as key partners in the implementation and evaluation of the MDGs.

**We call** upon the European countries for the achievement of at least 0,7 % of the GNP in ODA in order to meet the MDGs by 2015.

**We call** on the governments, the AU and the EU for coherence between their development cooperation policies and their external policies and we reaffirm the need to increase the participation in the decision making process of the African and European countries and their youth delegates in the international institutions.

**Acknowledging** that as result of historical, cultural, and political discrimination, girls and young women are still under-represented, underpaid, sexually exploited and face fewer opportunities than boys and young men, and therefore are far from seeing their fundamental Human Rights ensured, we insist on the importance of mainstreaming gender in all the policies and action plans within Euro-Africa cooperation

**Acknowledging** that in order to achieve basic human rights and eradicate extreme poverty, all people must have access to food, sanitation, shelter and healthcare, with special consideration to the barriers affecting young people.

**We believe** that universal primary education should be for all those who need basic education and not restricted by age.

**We recognise** that HIV/AIDS requires specific attention, as it is one of the biggest health problems among the youth in many African countries, whose social and economic consequences are already being felt. We are convinced that in the absence of a vaccine or cure, the best hope for the combat and prevention of HIV/AIDS rests on a strategy based on educating the public. Therefore:

**We request** active cooperation between Europe and Africa in the field of prevention and access to treatment, aiming to achieve at least 80% of young people having access to essential information and means of prevention by 2010.

**We insist** that strategic plans for HIV/AIDS premised on education, prevention, removal of stigma and access to treatment be developed involving youth organisations.

**We express**, as young people and youth organisations from Africa and Europe, our commitment to working together, in partnership with governments, towards the full implementation of the MDGs.

## BRINGING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRACY

**We maintain** that it is the obligation of the state to provide an environment of equality and active citizenship through good governance and democracy built upon the respect for the rule of law, the adherence to Human Rights and the inclusion of the most vulnerable.

**We call** upon the EU and the AU to reaffirm the commitment to the principle of the non-recognition of regimes that violate the EU treaties and the AU Constitutive Act and that commit crimes against humanity.

**We insist** upon the independence of institutions, particularly the judiciary, legislative and human rights organisations that safeguard democracy. These should be independent from governmental control.

**We sustain** that good governance be linked to sustainable human development and emphasize the principles of accountability, participation and the enjoyment of human rights by all young people, within strong and active civil society, as one of the main pillars of democracy.

**We suggest** the creation of platforms for the inclusion of youth representatives in all decision-making processes concerning governance.

**We demand** that the EU and the AU reinforce the existent mechanisms of preventing and combating corruption and enhance transparency in financial and political institutions.

**We call** for the ratification and full implementation of the international covenants of human rights, such as the European Convention for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, African Charter on human rights and Peoples rights and of the African Youth Charter.

**We strongly** support the establishment and reinforcement of National Youth Councils in all African and European countries.

**We encourage** our Governments to support networks of cooperation between European and African civil societies.

**We insist** that every national and international delegation should include participation of young leaders from their respective countries.

**We commend** the continuous efforts by the EU and the AU to guarantee youth participation in the entrenchment of human rights education, democracy and responsibility in a spirit of solidarity and international cooperation.

**We believe** that the minimum age for voting should not be above 18 years of age to ensure the full participation of youths.

**We recommend** the governments to support youth involvement within the governmental and intergovernmental structures in consolidating good governance and democracy by securing participatory, transparent and accountable decision-making processes.

**As youth** organisations we commit ourselves to be democratic, accountable and transparent in our actions. We must not fall into the traps of bad governance, but act according to our own claims and demands, thus maintaining transparent and accountable decision-making and ensuring that our organisations act as true schools for democracy.

## ENSURING PEACE-FIGHTING CONFLICT

**We believe** that human security and a culture of peace and justice are requirements for socioeconomic development and that fragile states are a strong handicap for peace and stability. All individuals are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want and equal opportunities to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their

human potential. The marginalisation of youth from the political, civic and economic sectors in society enhances the potential for unrest.

**We call** upon the EU, the AU and the Council of Europe and their member states to consider the important lessons drawn from the Responsibility to Protect report (ICSI 2002) and implement international declarations in order to renew and reinforce their approach and actions towards conflicts.

**We recommend** the government, intergovernmental institutions as well as non-state actors to protect, accommodate and rehabilitate IDPs, refugees and unaccompanied minors during and after conflict and to ensure their safety upon return.

**We encourage** the EU and the AU to establish a strong monitoring body of the arms trade in order to limit the illegal use of weapons and through the development of incentives for disarmament of illegal weapons.

**We as youth** organisations commit ourselves to cooperate with governments and non-state actors in raising awareness among young people on the illegal proliferation of arms.

**We insist** that the enrolment and use of children in armed conflicts and its related consequences should be considered a crime against Humanity and that those responsible should be punished according to International Law. We demand the establishment of demobilisation and disarmament mechanisms of child soldiers. We propose the establishment of socio-professional reinsertion centres with educational programmes for child soldiers. We demand the participation of civil society (NGOs and youth associations) in the awareness raising actions. We demand the reintegration of child-soldiers and post-conflict rehabilitation of youth become a priority.

**We demand** the governments of the EU and the AU to give youth organisations a permanent role in any peace negotiation and peace building process. We urge the governments and intergovernmental institutions to invest in the capacity and to support the initiatives of youth organisations in peace education, employment schemes and post-conflict rehabilitation.

**We ask** the EU and the AU to support the establishment of a joint voluntary peace service programme in post-conflict countries for African and European youth.

## TACKLING GLOBALISATION, TRADE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**We note** with concern that the policies of the international financial institutions and the current trade regulations have failed to bring about a more equitable and sustainable socio-economic development, as disparities are flagrant in the pace of African and European countries.

**We demand** the international community and international financial institutions redirect the economic development programmes to deal with poverty and unemployment and transfer of land-ownership for sustainable development; to resuscitate agriculture for self sufficiency in food production; to increase manufacturing capacity and to reverse declining standards of education.

**We reiterate** the need to establish transparent monitoring and redress mechanisms of corporation's and their suppliers' compliance with codes of conduct and Human Rights standards. We demand that ILO\* Labour Standards be promoted and enforced in all work places in African and European Countries e.g. complying with the extractive industries transparency initiative (the Kimberly process).

**We insist** that youth and student exchanges between Africa and Europe be promoted as a tool to advance diversity, networking and knowledge transfer and provide better means of communication to exchange views and ideas.

**We demand** that youth organisations play a more active role through co-management in the definition, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the policies of national and international organisations with a global impact.

**We note** with concern that the structure and neo-liberal policies of the international financial institutions and the current trade regulations, have failed to respect human dignity and to bring about a more equitable and sustainable socio-economic development. We also note the lack of proper representation of less developed countries in the international financial institutions.

**We are** convinced that globalisation and Fair Trade can be a force for Sustainable Development in Europe and Africa if governments, business and civil society join efforts to tackle the negative practices (e.g. Agricultural and fishery European policies) and impacts of globalisation and if they commit to address the imbalances created by demand of global market, thus sustaining economic activity

\* ILO : International Labour Organisation



worldwide. We demand that the European Union makes a binding commitment to systematically reduce subsidies over a specified period, eventually eradicating them.

**We demand** that the WTO<sup>5</sup> negotiations live up to the principles of being in the interest of the poor countries and the principles of reciprocity should be denied. EPAs<sup>6</sup> must be tools for development, as laid out in the legally binding Cotonou Partnership Agreement rather than being detrimental to the development needs of African countries. In this light, all alternatives to EPAs should be explored.

**We demand** the unconditional cancellation of all foreign debts, and that such cancellation should not be seen as Aid.

**We request** the revision of financial policies, which include elimination of tax heavens and repatriation of funds accrued through corruption and the imposition of tax on all international transactions.

**We, youth** organisations, consider that globalisation must not be only economically orientated, but also socially and culturally.

<sup>5</sup> WTO : World Trade Organisation

<sup>6</sup> EPAs : Economic Partnership Agreements





## MANAGING CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**We as youth** understand that it is the responsibility of individuals, governments and all other relevant stakeholders to implement and execute joint action plans to address environmental challenges and their impacts on sustainable development on local, regional and worldwide level.

**We recognise** that environmental factors become progressively important in African and European sustained economic growth and development. Climate change and the degradation of natural resources pose grave problems to many economic sectors and lead to reduced outcome and access to food, especially in Africa where hunger is already a major threat to development.

**We demand** the full implementation and further development of the environmental-related protocols and international agreements and urge for the improvement of international cooperation and coordination.

**We call** on the governments to reinforce national wide and international programmes, thereby using a participatory approach to determine the amount of available natural resources in order to outline strategies and monitoring mechanism for their sustainable use.

**We urge** the governments and intergovernmental institutions to develop concrete measures of public awareness regarding environmental issues and sustainable development, through national and international campaigns in partnership with youth organisations and through introducing development and environmental education in the school curricula.

**We demand** that the fight against climate change should build on the principle "the polluter pays". This principle should however not be an excuse for not taking the appropriate responsibilities.

**We as** future generations, demand that the issue of climate change be implemented in a cross cutting way in every policy process.

**We demand** a patent and tax system that promotes and transfers clean technology and technological innovation and opposes the tax rebate on the use of non-renewable fuel.

**We as** youth recognise that we live in a world with over consumption of resources and commit ourselves to put in action sustainable living. We request that a maximum of means be mobilised to promote the engagement of youth in actions to preserve the environment and in networking projects promoting a development, which is sustainable and does not compromise the opportunities of the generations to come.

### ADDRESSING MIGRATION, MOBILITY, INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE AND CO-DEVELOPMENT

**We acknowledge** that migration has a positive impact in the sending and receiving countries and that migrants play an important role in the development of the countries of origin and of hosting.

**Yet, we** express our grave concerns with the present trends of migration, which reflect the unequal effects of globalisation and the disparities in the development of our countries. Mostly oriented from the South to the North, current migration flows and mostly clandestine immigration are caused by and are closely tied with poverty and unemployment, political and social instability, armed conflicts and weak human security. The loss of skilled workers from Africa represents a brain-drain problem affecting the whole continent. At the same time, immigrants face problems of integration and prejudice in the hosting countries.

**We call** on the governments to provide the opportunities that facilitate the development of skills and knowledge. Preventive measures against human trafficking and other organised crimes associated to clandestine immigration should be put into place. Humanitarian support systems should be introduced for the victims of human trafficking.

**We call** upon all governments to ratify the UN conventions related to migrant rights.

**We recall** that migrant women are more vulnerable due to the fact that they can suffer multiples forms of discrimination.

**We call** for visa facilitation procedures with respect to students, participants to youth exchanges, education and other related programmes.

**We encourage** the governments to include remittances' programmes in their co-development strategies.

**We encourage** governments to include in school curricula classes, with the aim of familiarising students with other cultures, civilisations and respect for cultural diversity.

**Furthermore**, in order to recognise the powerful impact of non-formal education, we call on an empowerment of youth organisations working on intercultural dialogue both in formal and informal structures.

**We expect** that governments will ensure fundamental freedoms and establishments of open settings that promote inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue to increase mutual understanding and respect.

**We urge** the governments and intergovernmental institutions to partner with youth organisations and young immigrant associations in order to break stereotypes and promote positive integration of immigrants.

**We ask** for the facilitation of exchanges between groups of young people with different cultural and ethnic backgrounds within the hosting countries as well as between Africa and Europe.

**We ask** for the facilitation and development of intercultural youth exchanges between Africa and Europe and within each continent.

**We insist** that governments and youth organisations cooperate in campaigning to inform young migrants about the reality of life and working conditions in the hosting countries.

## OUR COMMON FIGHT FOR DECENT WORK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

**Nowadays** there is a growing economical crisis and instability and the enormous profits obtained by the multinational and trans-national companies live side by side with the increasing unemployment rates.

**We observe** the elimination of the majority of labour rights, especially those of young workers who suffer more the effects of unemployment. The question of employment is directly linked with the question of survival. Employment stagnation is rampant and "jobless" and "jobloss" growth. Nowadays the youth in particular and people in general are confronted with the spectre of unemployment in its most severe form. On the one hand millions of employed are being thrown out of jobs and on the other hand millions of unemployed are unable to find a job. We stand for the right to work, for labour rights, without precariousness and exploitation.

**The general** practice and legislation of precariousness by governments are contrary to young workers rights and needs. We stress the important role of trade unions and the importance of recognising and guaranteeing freedom of association, the right to strike, defence of their rights and playing a major role in democracy and development.

**We note** with concern that youth represent close to half of the world's unemployed people. In many countries, they are more than three times as likely as adults to be seeking work.

**Young women** often have most difficulties entering the labour market, and acquiring access to education and retaining decent jobs. Consequently young people in particular young women, are often forced to migrate in search of work and face the risk of being trafficked, to forced labour and precariousness. We recognise that policies on work-life balance have not gone far enough in providing women the environment in which they are not forced to stay at home to raise children.

**We also** notice that women have difficulties in job promotion and while trying they are often sexually harassed. They can be fired if they do not consent to this harassment.

**We are** convinced that access to training, the integration of youth and women into the labour market and the existence of concrete economic and social policies that create the environment in which decent work is secured, are essential for sustained growth and the prevention of intergenerational transmissions of poverty.

**We insist** that employment policies must address the key issues of the transition from school to work, in particular, promoting and guaranteeing professional traineeships with full employment rights. Furthermore we demand for policies to promote the first job. We ask for recognition of non-formal education, volunteerism (individual volunteerism, volunteerism in association and organisations etc.) and internships as working experiences.

**We encourage** the governments to look into ways of integrating the informal economy into the formal economy. We demand that the governments create legal frameworks that do not allow the informal economy.

**We call** upon the governments to develop participatory monitoring mechanisms of illegal labour practices and to encourage the business sector to take responsibility in promoting best practices of decent jobs, so that all workers are protected under law and are free from exploitation and discrimination.

**We request** the governments to put into place participatory programmes to tackle unemployment by promoting vocational and

professional training, economic generating initiatives, entrepreneurship and concrete employment opportunities for youth.

**We urge** the governments to financially support the initiatives of youth organisations in reducing unemployment through training, capacity building and self-initiatives of economic growth and development.

**The current** situation of high rates of unemployment pushes many workers to emigrate, within their countries, and to others countries. Growing unemployment today affects both urban and rural masses as never before. These situations of emigration are worsen by the fact that many of these workers are not considered legal, being more exploited, by not seeing their rights respected (not having contracts, lower wages, the constant threat of dismissal or denounce to the authorities), which consists not only in a way to deepen the exploitation of all workers, but also not recognising the major role that these workers play in the development and economy of the countries to which the emigrate.

**We call** on all governments to put Decent Work at the heart of development processes and ensure that labour standards are the foundation.

## STRATEGIES AND INSTRUMENTS

### FOR EURO-AFRICAN YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND COOPERATION

**We are** convinced that a meaningful Euro-Africa Partnership should be based on a strategic project and on a programme of action aiming at establishing close and sustainable relations between young people in the two continents. In this partnership the Pan-African Youth Union and the European Youth Forum should have a leading role and be recognised as important actors. The partnership should address the challenges of improving mobility, empowering young people and strengthening the youth structures in order to advance participation and cooperation.

**Through our** experience as youth organisations, we know that non-formal education is an effective way for youth empowerment. Through non-formal education youth organisations offer a holistic approach to learning, using creative, innovative methods, which complement the education obtainable at school and the family. Our "Learning by doing" approaches to education help young people out of poverty and into work and to develop their life skills and full potential and encourage youth into civic engagement and productive participation. In the frame of the Euro-African Youth Partnership we are committed to continue and increase our efforts and activities to reach out to more young people, also to marginalized youth.

**Strengthened** dialogue, cooperation and coordination between youth organisations at the national, sub-regional, continental and inter-continental levels will make youth participation in the action plans of the areas included in the EU-Africa Strategy more effective.

**In the design,** implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the policies and programmes affecting young women and men in Africa and in Europe co-management between representatives of youth organisations and Governments is a necessary means to improve the living conditions of one of the major social groups in both continents and to foster the development of our societies.

## THEREFORE, WE RECOMMEND THE GOVERNMENTS, THE EU, THE AU AND THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE TO JOIN EFFORTS IN ORDER TO:

### i. STRENGTHEN THE NATIONAL YOUTH STRUCTURES BY:

**Supporting** the establishment and consolidation of independent National Youth Councils in both continents. As youth organisations we should strengthen the National Youth Councils and ensure that they are in line with the standards for National Youth Councils as promoted by the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO).

**Funding** the National Youth Councils on a stable, transparent and independent way by allocating a fixed amount as an administrative grant, independently of government changes, in order to guarantee the autonomy of the youth structures and to allow the development of constructive youth work with a long-term perspective.

**Increasing** the allocation of funds and ensuring other forms of support for youth work in Africa and for the development of the structures and cooperation mechanisms of the African Diaspora in Europe.

**Differentiating** between youth organisations and governmental structures by promoting internal democracy, transparent and participatory processes in all youth organisations, from the local to the continental level, namely by having periodical elections with a limitation of terms of the elected officials, financial transparency, political accountability and regular and open access to information. Thus, adequately investing in capacity building, exchange of experiences and knowledge, use of ICTs, allocation of funds and a legal framework for youth organisations to exist and operate.

## ii. STRENGTHEN EURO AFRICAN YOUTH COOPERATION BY:

**Providing** concrete, strategic and long-term financial, political and logistical support to the development and implementation of youth policies in Africa.

**Ratifying** and implementing important treaties for youth, like the African Youth Charter and establishing reporting and monitoring mechanisms on the achievements of the rights of young people where youth organisations can take part.

**Facilitating** the communication processes, recognising the language diversity in Africa, and recognising the dynamics and spaces of encounter of youth organisations in Europe and in Africa and of the African youth Diaspora.

**Promoting** networking and exchanges between African and European youth organisations, aiming at identifying training and capacity building needs, defining thematic priorities and sharing experiences, pedagogical methods and techniques.

**Developing** of an Africa-Europe Youth Forum, as a regular meeting point for African and European youth leaders, where representatives of youth organisations in both continents have the opportunity to evaluate and monitor the efforts of Governments as well as youth organisations and the progress of the Euro-African Youth cooperation. A strong coordination between youth organisations in Africa and Europe is needed to ensure the lobby for and the implementation of the outcomes of the Africa-Europe Youth Summit as well as of the Heads of States Summit.

**Involving** youth organisations in the organisation of the upcoming European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps of the draft European reform treaty, focusing on youth-led community development projects but specifically excluding emergency and conflict situations.

## iii. PROMOTE EURO AFRICAN MOBILITY BY:

**Facilitating** the mobility of all young people by making the issuing of visas easier, thus benefiting also participants in international youth activities in Africa and Europe. Sending organisations should be aware of their responsibilities when applying for visas for their members and participants.

**Developing** a Euro-African Youth Programme, which structure would be similar to the Euro-Med Youth Programme while keeping in consideration the specificities of the partner regions and actors, including a realistic budget and the definition of priorities, such as youth participation, intercultural dialogue or human rights education.



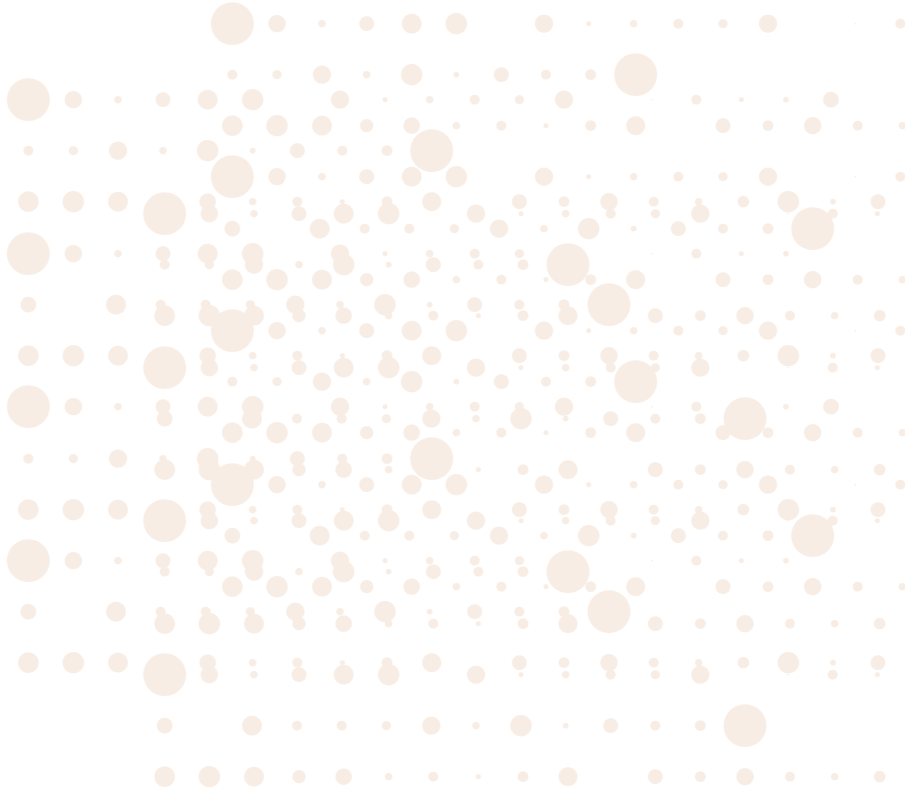
**Advancing** Euro African and Intra-African university mobility programmes, which promote academic exchange and share of knowledge and which can help decreasing the brain-drain.

**Enlarging** the ERASMUS Programme (EU) to all students enrolled in university education in the countries that are parts in the Programme. Articulating the ERASMUS and NEYERERE Programme (AU).

**Promoting** the existing scholarship systems between European and African countries, opening the access to scholarships of the ERASMUS MUNDUS Programme to European Students, and increasing cooperation between all the relevant institutions aiming at the harmonisation and recognition of diplomas and degrees.

**Promoting** exchanges between the organisations of the African Diaspora living in Europe.

**Increasing** the budget allocation to the creation of educational and knowledge structures in the African countries and ensuring their capability to take part in international exchange programmes.





# Address to the EU-Africa Summit of Heads of State and Government

delivered by:

**Bettina Schwarzmayr,**

President of the European Youth Forum,  
representative of the Africa-Europe Youth Summit

## **Dear Excellencies,**

**It is** impossible to describe a process that lasted over a year and that was based on five regional consultations in Africa and Europe, including the African Diaspora. Henceforth I will share the three key elements of our work that are the basis for all our recommendations.

## **The three elements are:**

1. What can we, as youth organisations offer?
2. What are the basic requirements we have?
3. What are we asking from you?

**Youth organisations** offer an outreach and multiplying effect and therefore play a key role in reducing the gap between where decisions are made and where they are implemented.

**We are** engaged in opening up political processes at all levels, and making them accessible to young people. Our wish and ability is to contribute with a spirit of enquiry, new thinking and competence. While the list of problems that need to be tackled continues to grow, the willingness and enthusiasm of young people to contribute to the global partnership for development remains unbroken.

**The basic** requirement for this work is more support. True cooperation between African and European youth needs a reliable framework, needs programmes to support both – people to people exchange and political coordination.

**If we want** to make sure the concerns and challenges of young people are addressed it needs to be possible that youth organisations can meet and work with each other. It is indispensable that young people be heard and listened to in policy development. Youth organisations need to be partners when policies are defined, implemented, monitored and evaluated.

**Therefore** it is essential that you live up to the targets that you have already set for your countries. The slow and delayed progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals is, frankly speaking, a major disappointment for all, and particularly, for the youth of the world: this failure in acting to solve humanity's most agonising problems is unsatisfactory and dangerous. In addition it is high time that the European Youth Pact is implemented at all levels and the African Youth Charter is ratified by ever more states.

**We hope** the Africa–EU strategy will be a tool to support the attainment of existing commitments.

**Dear Excellencies, let me conclude:**

**It is** imperative to cooperate with youth organisations.

**It is** fundamental to have more and better youth exchanges.

**It is** indispensable that you fulfil your own promises.

Thank you.



## Statement on visas

# Bringing Down the Barriers

**We, the participants** of the 1<sup>st</sup> Africa-Europe Youth summit want to express our concerns regarding the increasing challenges faced by the youth leaders from outside the Schengen area to obtain a visa. In spite of the serious efforts undertaken by the partners of the Summit, numerous participants have been deprived the right to attend our gathering, aiming at a greater solidarity and cooperation in global youth work.

**Our vision** is a society open for all, a society without barriers. A society which, instead of keeping mobility only as a theoretical opportunity for young people, gives them the possibility to travel and work in other countries and cultures without being discriminated against. Our vision is a society without xenophobia and racism.

**Regional** cooperation of the future should be about solving global problems by pooling sovereignty and setting up a framework of mutually accepted rules. However, in the current political environment, the dominant theme in political discourse is security. Political ideologies provide different explanations on what the sources of insecurity are, as well as how to provide protection against it. Insecurity may span from economic to social and even cultural fears.

**As immigration** is seen as a growing threat to economic stability and security, parties from both the right and the left have toughened immigration laws radically. This crackdown on immigrants is probably the most appalling and shameful of the European policies of recent years. Destabilisation through immigration is not a sign that rules are not tough enough, but rather that immigration policies have failed.

**Many examples** of discrimination, xenophobia and racism start not in the dark corners of streets but in the long queues of some embassies and consulates. There are clear differences in how citizens of countries are treated.

**Young people** taking part in international youth work frequently experience detailed questioning and humiliating treatment at border controls.

**Development** needs youth and needs intercultural dialogue. Intercultural dialogue can have the best results with people to people exchanges and joint projects that are hardly possible due to visa obstacles.

**Problems** in obtaining visas have increased as more and more embassies have moved from accepting invitations by fax to demanding only original invitation letters. Sending original letters from hosting organisation to embassies is time-consuming and results in additional expenses for Youth NGOs. Moreover, embassies have progressively changed their regulations for the provision of visas, demanding additional documentation ranging from health certificates to letters authenticating the originality of name.

**We, the participants** of the Africa-Europe Youth Summit assure policy makers that security will not increase through increased boarder control but through increased development cooperation and poverty eradication.

**We call** upon the European Union, the Council of Europe, the other European institutions, as well as the National governments, to make coordinated efforts in facilitating the mobility of young people, especially in the field of youth work, by ensuring easier visa procedures and visa waivers.

**We want** to express our support for a special type of visa providing an easier and consistent procedure for people involved in international youth work, humanitarian work and educational exchanges.



final declaration from participants

# First African University on Youth and Development

TARRAFAL, 12 TO 19 JUNE, 2009

**We, the participants** welcome the creation of the 1<sup>st</sup> African University for Youth and Development. We see this as an important follow-up to the declaration from the Africa-Europe Youth Summit in 2007 as well as being key to the preparations for the 2010 Heads of States Summit. We therefore ask the African Union, the European Union and the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe to ensure that this important space for enhancing the cooperation between youth organisations in Africa and their partners remains an opportunity in years to come.

**The time** for African youth to rise has come, with only one more country to ratify the African Youth Charter for the charter to come into force. In Europe a process is launched to ensure that also young Europeans can have their rights recognised in a convention. African and European Governments must commit to these processes now. During the week at the University we have identified a number of other processes that we are also strongly committed to contribute to and for which we have the following demands:

**Youth Participation:** Youth from both continents, in unison, request that governments recognize and promote non-formal education and specifically the need to further develop volunteering in Africa and Europe. Real youth participation is a key to strengthening



democracy and enable youth to become responsible members of their society, and we strongly encourage governments of all countries to continuously include youth representatives in decision-making processes in different institutions at all levels.

**Youth Policy:** Investing in young people means investing in our countries. To ensure the recognition of young people as a target group and as key actors of change, we demand implementation of cross-sectoral national youth policies within all countries. To ensure full and active participation of independent youth-led organisations and young people governments should ensure independency and sustainability of youth councils at all levels.

**Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):** Achieving the MDGs will contribute to a fair and more sustainable development of the world. Therefore we call upon our governments and stakeholders in this time of uncertainty to reaffirm their commitment to working towards the MDGs by 2015. The current problems that plague the world must be taken into account but not delay the work to achieve the MDGs. We are convinced that implementing the declaration from the Africa-Europe Youth Summit in 2007 will have a positive impact in different countries.

**Peace-building and good governance:** As youth organisations we commit ourselves in all our capacities to maintain and preserve the principles of good governance, peace-building and conflict-resolution in line with the African Youth Charter and our continuous work for a better society. We demand that our governments ensure respect for the rule of law, justice, democracy and equality.

**Climate change:** Climate change is the greatest challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century – and we are running out of time. Melting ice caps, disappearing coast lines, extreme weather events, decreased agricultural output, more frequent outbreaks of diseases and climate refugees are just a few of the adverse effects of climate change, some of them irreversible.





While some governments put a lot of effort into reducing their emissions and reversing the effects of climate change we still need to put much more urgency in our mitigation and adaptation measures.

**Youth Mobility, Intercultural Dialogue and Employment:** By breaking barriers and opening borders, we want to create intercultural dialogue and encourage sustainable development. Governments should facilitate and support our work to create a global youth village where young people are empowered and our actions are visible. We aim to open minds, however to achieve this, states must open borders and issue visas without discrimination.

**We strongly** demand the member states of the UN to support and promote the resolution on youth presented by Portugal, Senegal and Moldova in the next UN General Assembly, representing a step forward on the global youth aspirations. We also encourage the institutionalisation of this University in Cape Verde to continue the support and empowerment of youth in Africa.

This declaration results from the **First African University on Youth and Development** and it was build using the amplifying power of Non-Formal Education.



declaration from participants

## Second University on Youth and Development

CAPE VERDE, JULY 4-11 2010

**We, the participants** of the 2<sup>nd</sup> African University on Youth and Development would like to congratulate our hosts in Cape Verde on the celebration of the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their Independence and we feel inspired by the remarkably large proportion of young leaders in political positions.

**The African University** on Youth and Development, organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and its partners, has given us the opportunity to bring youth organizations and their elected representatives from Africa and Europe together, to share, to learn and to participate. This learning space has been a successful example for the possibilities of the implementation of the Africa-EU Strategic partnership.

**The year 2010** marks an important milestone in our joint effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This year also creates a momentum in the Africa-Europe cooperation, which our University is an important part of.

## MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS = YOUTH DEVELOPMENT GOALS

**Young People** constitute the majority of the population in the world and up to 80% in developing countries. We take note of and are encouraged by the progress noted in the UN Secretary General's 2010 MDG report. However we are very saddened and concerned by the fact that Africa – and Sub-Saharan Africa in particular – is lagging behind in many of the most crucial indicators of development. The achievement of the MDGs requires the full and effective participation of young people and youth-led organisations for example in decision-making processes.

**Investment** in and empowerment of young people is needed to boost development in Africa. This is the responsibility of all actors, including Governments, regional organisations such as the African Union, the European Union, the Council of Europe as well as civil society and youth organisations.

**The following** are our recommendations to achieve development through investing in youth:

### RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

**Human rights** and development are strongly interlinked and recognition of the rights of young people, including the rights to full and effective participation in policy formulation and decision making processes on issues that affect the youth, are of utmost importance. We therefore:

- ⦿ **call** upon the African states that have not yet ratified the African Youth Charter to make the ratification a matter of priority;
- ⦿ **request** all African states to implement the African Youth Charter and develop national youth policies in cooperation with National Youth Councils and other national and international youth NGOs;
- ⦿ **encourage** the African Union and its Member States to promote the African Youth Charter and the work for youth rights also in the framework of the United Nations;
- ⦿ **call** upon the countries present in the World Youth Conference to give an impulse to the approval of a Universal Convention on Youth Rights, taking as example International treaties, such as the African Youth Charter and the Ibero-american Convention on Youth Rights.



### YOUNG MIGRANTS = AGENTS OF CHANGE

**The majority** of the world's migrant population is young and their contribution to society and development – both in their countries of origin and in the hosting countries – must be recognised. We therefore

- ⦿ **ask** for the recognition of the important role the African Youth in Diaspora and in particular its networks in Europe are playing in the Africa-Europe cooperation and their inclusion into the development and implementation of youth policies;
- ⦿ **request** for all actors to provide space and funding for the African Youth in Diaspora in Europe to participate in the cooperation for development with Africa;
- ⦿ **stress** that migration should not be forced by economic, social, political and/or environmental factors.

### INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

**The week** at the African University on Youth and Development offered us a unique opportunity to share best practices and promote intercultural dialogue. The 3<sup>rd</sup> EU-Africa Heads of States Summit will take place during the International Year of Youth; Dialogue and Mutual Understanding as well as in the beginning of the African Youth Decade (2009-2018), we therefore:

- ⦿ **demand** for a strong commitment regarding investment on the youth and in developing further cooperation between youth organizations from Europe and Africa.
- ⦿ **request** governments to ensure a greater involvement of Pan-African and sub-regional organisations in the promotion of a culture of peace, democratic values and respect for human rights and to recognise their role in preventing and managing conflicts.

## STRONGER COOPERATION AMONGST YOUTH ORGANISATIONS IN AFRICA

**Strengthening** the cooperation and exchange among Youth Organisations is crucial to reach out to more young people and to increase the impact and quality of youth and development programmes. We therefore:

- ⊙ **call** upon the African Union to ensure recognised spaces for cooperation among Youth Organisations active on the Pan-African level, to establish a programme providing support to Pan-African activities in the frame of youth-led organisations and to enable, empower and include international Youth Organisations in Pan-African decision making and inter-regional cooperations;
- ⊙ **call** upon all actors for support to the establishment of independent National Youth Councils and truly youth-led organisations, as promoters and facilitators of youth participation in policy making for development in all countries and on all levels;
- ⊙ **call** upon all youth-led organisations to ensure transparency in internal decision making, including free and equal elections to leadership positions for a defined time-frame and a limited number of terms;
- ⊙ **demand** for the recognition of the work done by African youth organisations as key contributors for development.

### TOWARDS THE 3<sup>rd</sup> EU-AFRICA HEADS OF STATE SUMMIT

**Following** and monitoring the implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy over the last years, we have identified needs for improvement in many areas. Therefore we call upon the African and European Heads of States and other actors to:

- ⊙ **establish** a new paradigm of leadership based on democracy, responsibility and accountability, fulfilling criteria for good governance and efficient and effective management of public goods;
- ⊙ **ensure** sustainable growth through ensuring the right to decent work for all young people, investing in the renewable energies sector, reducing the environmental impact caused by massive exploitation and utilisation of resources and reducing the greenhouse gas emissions from all sectors;
- ⊙ **empower** women to take upon permanent roles and leadership positions on a national level and in Africa-Europe cooperation, including youth cooperation;



- ① **increase** and strengthen the capacity building of all relevant stakeholders in the context of the Africa-Europe cooperation, for example through training courses and exchanges;
- ① **provide** resources and support to implement Africa-Europe youth projects and activities in the local context;
- ① **facilitate** youth exchanges and enhance youth mobility, including visa procedures, to ensure better cooperation for development;
- ① **ensure** freedom of assembly and freedom of expression in all countries in Africa and Europe;
- ① **include** youth delegates into their delegations to international meetings that concern the youth;
- ① **strongly** commit, engage and invest in youth and in further developing the cooperation between youth organisations in Europe, international youth organisations on the Pan-African level and member organisations of the Pan-African Youth union and the European Youth Forum.



## declaration

# Southern Africa Sub-Regional Seminar on Youth Policies, the African Youth Charter

LUANDA, ANGOLA, 29 MARCH - 1 APRIL 2010

### PREAMBLE

*In the framework of the Africa-Europe cooperation and preparations for the upcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa-Europe Summit, the National Youth Council (NYC) hosted from 29 March to 1 April in Luanda, Angola, a Seminar on Youth Policies and the African Youth Charter in Southern Africa. This summit follows the 1<sup>st</sup> Youth Summit held in December 2007 in Lisbon, Portugal.*

**The Seminar** was organised in the framework of a Joint-Agreement between the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and the EuropeAid hosted by the National Youth Council of Angola, and in close cooperation with the Pan-African Youth Union.

**The EU-Africa** strategic partnership, a framework for cooperation launched at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit of Heads of State of the European Union and Africa, recognises the youth as a major player in the development of Africa and Europe. Strengthening youth organisations and movements is therefore essential for development in general and especially to ensure the progress of youth policies in order to achieve sustainable cooperation between African and European young people.

**The Seminar** brought together representatives from 12 countries, namely: Angola, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Madagascar, Namibia, Portugal, Swaziland, Spain, Mozambique, South Africa, Malawi and Tanzania. Organisations represented included National and Provincial Youth Councils, youth organisations and associations that are members of the NYC of Angola and national and international Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) working with young people.

**Aware of** the upcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit of Heads of State from Africa and Europe, participants:



## ON YOUTH POLICIES

**CALL UPON** the Pan-African Youth Union to lobby for the establishment of National Youth Councils in countries where they do not exist;

**EXPRESS** solidarity towards the young people of Madagascar affected by the ongoing political crisis in their country and encourage them to continue making efforts for the necessary change to come about

**STRONGLY ENCOURAGE** the National Youth Councils to create partnerships with young people of the Diaspora of their countries to ensure their participation in the Continent's development;

**REQUEST** the PYU, international youth organisations and other non-state actors to include in their programmes young refugees and war victims living in their territory;

**REITERATE** the need to defend and preserve the independence and autonomy of the National Youth Councils;

**TASK** the Pan-African Youth Union with urgently developing guidelines on the structures of NYCs in the African continent;

**EMPHASISE** the need for the participation of young people in policy-making in their States, as well as in the evaluation of the quality and implementation of programmes involving the youth.

## ON THE AFRICAN YOUTH CHARTER

**COMMEND** all Member States of the African Union who have already ratified the African Youth Charter and request that all the States who have not yet taken the necessary steps, proceed with adopting and ratifying the Charter;

**STRONGLY ENCOURAGE** governments to align their national priorities on youth with the African Youth Charter;

**REQUEST** that the Pan-African Youth Union develop guidelines on the work to be undertaken by the National Youth Councils to promote and further advance the implementation of the African Youth Charter;

**HAVE NOTED AND EXPRESS SATISFACTION** with the increase in resources for youth programmes generally across Members States

## ON THE PREPARATION OF THE 2<sup>nd</sup> AFRICA-EUROPE YOUTH SUMMIT

**CONSCIOUS** of the upcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa-Europe to be held in 2010, have committed to actively participating in its preparation and realisation;

**COMMEND** the contribution of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe which has made the realisation of several cooperation programmes between the youth of the two Continents possible.

Youth Centre of Viana, – Luanda 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010.

The delegates



declaration by participants

# 7<sup>th</sup> Africa Europe Training Course for Youth Organisations

UNIVERSITY OF LIMPOPO, POLOKWANE, SOUTH AFRICA,  
23 - 30 MAY 2010

## INTRODUCTION

**We the** participants of the 7<sup>th</sup> Euro-African Training Course have joined to discuss common issues. Gathering in the last week of May 2010 in the province of Polokwane, South Africa, we have discussed the Joint EU-Africa Strategy and the African-European Youth Cooperation. We recommend the following to the Panafrican Youth Union, the European Youth Forum and any other relevant partner as a thematic input to their work in the preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Euro-Africa Youth Summit which is anticipated to take place in Libya this year.

## MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

**The future** lays in the hands of the young generation, hence our stress upon the holistic long-term commitment on sustainability and the proposal to combine the MDG's with the Agenda 21 and to ensure a coherent follow up.

- ⦿ **We urge** the U.N., North-South Centre, governments and all interested stakeholders to assist in the establishment of new platforms and the reinforcement of existing ones for a clearer dialogue between the governments and the civil society, with a strong recognition of youth involvement. For e.g. by:
  - ♥ **MDG Councils** (in order to reach out further on national and local arenas)
  - ♥ **Youth Ambassadors** on MDG's (international network through North-South Centre)
- ⦿ **We demand** accountability and transparency, concerning to what extent the MDG's have been taken from principle to practice. Given the usage of given resources and quality of development as well as the impact of the implementation process.

- ⦿ **We urge** States to take their responsibility to empower young people to be actively involve in decision-making processes, as well as recognising their power and actions to achieve the MDG's.
- ⦿ **We stress** the importance to respect and acknowledge vulnerable group in all the targets of MDG's.
- ⦿ **We demand** the Heads of State to strengthen the youth-led formal, in-formal and non-formal education to contribute to a raised level of knowledge, and as a result, a influenced behavioral change.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

**Recognising** that young people are the key moral stakeholders in the debate on climate change, as they will face the consequences of today's decisions.

**Recognising** that the opportunities for the use of young people for the acceleration of sustainable development are not explored sufficiently,

**Recognising** the existing actors in targeting climate change as young people such as the PYU and the YFJ and other relevant youth organisation.

- ⦿ **We urge** all international institutions including the EU and the UN to lead the way by efficient resource management in their day to day operations.
- ⦿ **We urge** member states to further implement international agreements on climate issues and we ask for a fair, ambitious and legal binding agreement regarding climate change, within the framework offered by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- ⦿ **We stress** the importance of networking for young people to share experiences through the usage of modern communication tools and pools of know-how and experts.
- ⦿ **We must be** part of the decision-making process on climate change and we can bring fresh ideas to the table when developing local, regional, national and international policies.
- ⦿ **We encourage** the establishment of environment offices within existing platforms, in particular youth platforms, to enable increased financial support.
- ⦿ **We call upon** member states to integrate and streamline environmental subjects into education curricula.
- ⦿ **We demand** the full deployment of clean technologies and climate sensitive development.

- ⦿ **We** encourage exchanges of students to transfer technological capacity to combat climate change.
- ⦿ **We** urge member states to take bold emission reductions and increase the support to developing countries for their carbon emissions mitigation strategies.
- ⦿ **We** recommend that the young people from Europe and Africa use climate change as a common agenda to develop a strategic partnership in combating it.
- ⦿ **We** recall the importance of the protection of the biodiversity as a strong tool to improve the ecological system.
- ⦿ **We** expect member states to encourage the recycling of waste and to implement efficient tools to further promote the recycling system.
- ⦿ **We** ask developed member states to commit to sufficient financial resources to tackle and cope with climate change.

### GOOD GOVERNANCE

- ⦿ **We** urge the reinforcement of National Youth Councils as independent youth platforms promoting youth participation in policy making processes.
- ⦿ **We** urge all countries to provide a right of free association among young people in organisations or informal groups.
- ⦿ **We** call upon African and European governments to maintain their obligation for equal opportunities for every individual for the attainment of proper representation.
- ⦿ **We** insist on the transparency in the political and governmental institutions and enforcement of existing mechanisms to fight corruption.
- ⦿ **We** encourage independence of judicial and legislative systems in all countries.
- ⦿ **We** believe that the institutional framework within the states should be strengthened.
- ⦿ **We** demand the necessary resources for a strengthened cooperation between European and African Youth Platforms, in order to promote championing and sharing of good practices among young people.
- ⦿ **We** believe that it is the obligation of all countries to protect freedom of speech and access to information for all.

## PEACE AND SECURITY

**We** strongly recommend active participation of young people and youth organisations in conflict transformation, resolution initiatives and mechanisms. Through exchanges, peace-education and intercultural dialogue, youth organisations can provide a crucial contribution to pre- and post-conflict reconstruction.

- ◉ **We** urge a clear separation between the army and regime in power.
- ◉ **We** urge the governments and civil society to put efforts to solve all frozen conflicts as they are potential sources of peace disruption.
- ◉ **We** insist on the proper framework on the protection, rehabilitation and integration of refugees, child soldiers, internal displaced people and immigrants.
- ◉ **We** call for better and improved coordination efforts against human trafficking and strong penalty for the perpetrators.
- ◉ **We** consider dialogue and negotiations as the primary instrument, and the use of armed forces should be the last resort of any conflicts among or within an African or European State.
- ◉ **We** urge to reinforce the existing treaties regulating the control of the production and trade of arms.
- ◉ **Countries** must develop funding institutions and programs supporting youth-initiatives promoting peace and security in Africa and Europe.
- ◉ **We** recognise the importance of achieving sustainable development to minimise the level of crimes and risk of armed conflict and therefore maintaining peace and security.

## YOUTH RIGHTS AND PARTICIPATION

Considering the indept importance of the roles of young people and youth organisations, youth rights are crucial in the context of Euro-Africa Youth Cooperation.

- ◉ **We** on the African States that have not ratified the African Youth Charter to make the ratification a matter of priority. We further call on the popularisation and implementation of the African Youth Charter and the implementation of national Youth Policies. We recommend that the PYU should lead the monitoring of its implementation.
- ◉ **We** call on the leadership of the Council of Europe to establish the European Convention on Youth Rights in cooperation with

appropriate representative structures of youth organisations in Europe, taking into account the example of the African Youth Charter.

- ① **We** Joint EU-Africa Strategy should include the refugee rights and address issues affecting refugees.
- ① **We** reaffirm the Final Declaration of the 1<sup>st</sup> Africa-Europe Youth Summit and the UN General Assembly Resolution on "Policies and Programmes involving youth", for the full and effective implementation of WPAY (A/RES/64/130) and call for the enhancement of Independent National Youth Councils, as monitoring bodies in the promotion of good governance and democratic processes from a youth perspective. We further urge for the rights of independence of youth organisations.
- ① **We** call for the provision of access to basic and quality education and recognition of non-formal education as empowerment for active citizenship of young people. Non-formal education should be recognised as complimentary to formal education.
- ① **We** call for the strengthening of mobility of youth, youth leaders and youth organisations by increasing funding opportunities to participate in international exchanges and international events as a way to promote Intercultural dialogue. Also address the easy facilitation of the visa process related to this regional and international mobility.
- ① **We** call for the allocation of funds for existing youth-organisations (e.g. the the youth councils and other youth organisations) to work on awareness of youth rights as well as the creation of specific funds for joint Euro-Africa youth projects.
- ① **Participation** of youth organisations in national, regional and international decision making process must be recognised, encouraged and strengthened.
- ① **We** call on the Heads of State and governments to initiate more effective measures and to ensure that the dignity and access for young people to decent employment and jobs is kept (focus on young women, unemployed and the under-employed and decent social protection).
- ① **We** call for the strengthened PYU in order making it more responsive to the needs and aspirations of the young people of Africa such as participation and resource mobilisation.
- ① **We** call for the reinforcement of the Euro-Africa Cooperation by the involvement of youth of the African diaspora.

- ⦿ **We** call for support and recognition of voluntary youth work as well as the rights of youth volunteers.
- ⦿ **We** call for the protection of young people against discrimination, racism and xenophobia. Different religious beliefs, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, disabilities or others should not be obstacles to actively participate in society. All states should ensure that specific and equal opportunities are provided to young people with disabilities.

## MIGRATION, MOBILITY AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

**We** would like to stress that young people are the majority of the world migrant population. We would like to stress the still existing need and importance to continue and emphasize the on-going efforts on policies and fundamental rights in regards to youth mobility and migration.

**It is** of importance to acknowledge the social and political diversity in the migrant community. Migration contributes to a more diverse society, a more cosmopolitan citizenship, enhanced cultural understanding and social inclusivity.

**However**, migration must not be forced by economic, social, political and/or environmental factors. Therefore, there is a pending demand on developing and setting up of a legal framework that protects and enforces the rights of migrant. (UN Convention)

**In order** to integrate migrants, it is fundamental to ensure the same access to social services, including language education, political rights, autonomy and well-being to all, as well as respect for and guarantee of human rights, while acknowledging the benefit of a multicultural society.

**The right** to citizenship is fundamental and no young person in Europe or Africa, including young migrants and the children of migrants, should be denied the right to citizenship.

**We would** like to acknowledge the migrants and refugees that were able to become leading figures in their host-community. However, we call upon European and African Governments to grant migrants the rights to fully and equally participate in the political, social and economic life of their respective societies, by:

- ⦿ **Developing** and implementing migration policies, be it on asylum, labour or irregular migration.
- ⦿ **Creating** policies that promote the social inclusion of migrants, strengthening their capacity to organise themselves, ensuring their access to good quality social services such as health, housing



and education, and offering the same opportunities to all members of a society.

- ④ **Empowering** and integrating migrants; bearing in mind the negative impact of social exclusion, which often leads to poverty and in some countries to conflict and distortion of peace.

**We** strongly recommend that the next UN report on Youth in 2011, should address the topic of youth migration and mobility, as youth is the frontline of migration, both forced and voluntary.

**We** seek for the European and African Governments to increase the opportunity for regular migration for the low and medium skilled, temporary and seasonal workers. Moreover, we need to ensure economic growth and development in regions facing the brain-drain and economic driven migration. To reduce such phenomena, there must be reinforced fair trade, equitable development and greater adherence to good governance practises.

**We** also highlight the importance of remittances as a driver for development; which represents an estimated one trillion US dollars per annum. We call on government to increase the ease with which these moneys return to home countries and encourage civil society to advocate the more targeted developmental use of these funds.

**We** note with growing concern the ongoing issue of human trafficking; which is fast becoming one of the world's most profitable and morally deplorable businesses. The youth are, in most cases, the victims of human trafficking and this occurs due to a lack of information. One of the most effective ways to deal with this abhorrent crime is to raise awareness. In this case, awareness of human trafficking in Europe, Africa and within continental borders.

**The** youth therefore call on international community and government in particular to place a greater emphasis on informing their citizens about the realities of migration, trafficking and the dangers of illegal migration.

**We** firmly assert the important role played by youth organisations in facilitating social cohesion, integration and societal mainstreaming of migrants. Furthermore, youth organisations are significant actors in international relations and cooperation, play an important role in advocacy and integration of youth and the children of migrants.

**We** strongly condemn the populist reactionary propaganda aimed at inciting xenophobia, and call on governments to desist in instituting further restrictive immigration policies on both sides of the developmental divide.

**We** reaffirm the principles and recommendations of UN Convention of Refugees and call upon our leaders, particularly those in Africa, to ratify and implement this agreement.

**We** recognise and salute the role played by intercultural dialogue in the enhancement and advocacy of the values, ideals and principles enshrined in this declaration; lived through international youth organisations, forums and exchange programmes throughout Europe and Africa. Youth throughout the world has been and remains involved in significant struggles, be it for liberation, independence or survival, often paying a heavy price. We applaud the courage and endurance of these young men, women and children who remain committed to dreams of a better society and fruitful intercultural dialogue.





Tripoli declaration

## Africa-Europe Youth Summit

25 – 28 NOVEMBER 2010, TRIPOLI, LIBYA

**We representatives** of Youth Organisations from Africa and Europe, gathered in Tripoli, Libya, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa-Europe Youth Summit, reconfirm our commitment to the declaration of the 1<sup>st</sup> Africa-Europe Youth Summit, which took place in Lisbon in 2007.

**We thank** the National Organisation of Libyan Youth and the Libyan people for the hospitality as well as for the excellent conditions of accommodation and work we have enjoyed since our arrival in Libya.

**We request** that Heads of States discuss the demand that all countries which occupied others sincerely apologise for the period of their colonisation and consider paying compensations, as it still concerns the youth.

**Working together** for three days we had the opportunity to identify our achievements and the shortcomings in the Africa-Europe Cooperation over the last three years. We have also taken the opportunity to identify priorities and actions to be taken both from the Governmental side and from our own side in order to strengthen our cooperation and achieve development on our two continents.

**We recognise** the contributions of the European Union, the African Union, the Council of Europe, represented by its statutory bodies and the North-South Centre, and the African Union ECOSOC to sustain the Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation, and urge Governments and institutions to continue providing resources to strengthen youth-led organizations on all levels in our two continents to support their activity and cooperation between Europe and Africa.

**The Africa-Europe** cooperation has been a high priority in our organisations and much has been achieved over the last three years. Still, more could be achieved and we are requesting an Africa-Europe Youth Trust Fund, supported by governments and institutions, in order to implement tools identified by our Summit, and ensuring seed-funding for pilot projects described below. We are

committed to establish and support micro-finance mechanisms for development

**Governments** and Youth Organisations must in partnership stimulate youth entrepreneurship, the establishment of youth cooperatives, regional and international youth employment networks, and promote sustainable and fair trade.

**2015 is** the deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and approaching rapidly. We see the need for an Africa-Europe Think Tank to prepare the development cooperation framework post 2015, with strong participation of Youth Organizations from Africa and Europe.

## ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS IS OUR PRIORITY

**As Youth** Organisations we are committed to:

- ⊙ **increase** the use of non-formal education methodology to ensure the self-sufficiency of young people and their families (MDG 1);
- ⊙ **engage** with schools in order to reach out to more young people and ensure high quality education for all (MDG 2);
- ⊙ **encourage** Youth Organisations on the national, regional and local level to financially support the education of one girl or one boy in a country without universal access to education (MDG 2);
- ⊙ **implement** gender equality in our organisations and strengthen our work for the empowerment of girls and women (MDG 3);
- ⊙ **develop** and implement campaigns on HIV/AIDS knowledge and prevention, educating around 1 million youth in Africa and Europe by 2015, as well as train leaders from youth organisations in Africa and Europe to counteract stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV and their families (MDG 6);
- ⊙ **make** our contributions to development more visible in order to create better results and more synergies through strengthened cooperation with other civil society actors.
- ⊙ **We** demand African and European Governments to
- ⊙ **support** young farmers through micro-credit, access to land and training for sustainable farming (MDG 1);
- ⊙ **allocate** Official Development Assistance (ODA) to build more schools in Sub-Saharan Africa and educate 25 per cent more teachers in the region by 2015 (MDG 2);

- ⊙ **end** discrimination against people living with HIV and their families, and support, especially financially, HIV programmes to prevent stigma and support prevention (MDG 6);
- ⊙ **support**, between now and 2015, youth exchange projects for 100 000 young people from Africa and 100 000 young people from Europe, as a contribution to develop partnerships for development (MDG 8);
- ⊙ **ensure** primary health care, including sexual and reproductive health care, for all and free and equal access to medicines and treatment for people living with HIV (MDG 6);
- ⊙ **make** ODA funds accessible for youth and voluntary based organisations and ensure the involvement of youth organisations in decision-making and prioritisation of ODA;
- ⊙ **facilitate** a strong program for capacity-building for youth organisations to contribute towards the achievement of the MDGs (MDG 8).

### OUR COMMON FIGHT FOR DECENT WORK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

**We demand** African and European Governments to ensure youth employment by:

- ⊙ **enhancing** networking among public, private and civil society actors to facilitate access to decent employment for young people through assuring the quality of internships on the national, regional and European-African level;
- ⊙ **ensuring** equal job opportunities with equal pay, with special attention to the diaspora;
- ⊙ **ensuring** equal space for youth participation in social and structured dialogue with decision-makers and employers involving youth in the planning and implementation of actions in all National Development Programmes through local, national and regional youth organisations, for example through public consultations and national youth surveys;
- ⊙ **creating** an entrepreneur-friendly environment and providing information on legislation, establishing social guarantees for young people, reducing taxes and providing infrastructure, including access to Internet;
- ⊙ **obliging** multinational and trans-national companies to provide employment and training opportunities for local youth through a fixed quota;
- ⊙ **supporting** small and medium enterprises, which provide employment, training opportunities and internships to young people;

- ◉ **enhancing** the employment of young people in the agricultural sector through capacity building and other relevant support;
- ◉ **further** investing in research and development (R&D) for the creation of new employment opportunities for young people.

## TACKLING GLOBALISATION, TRADE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**We demand** African and European Governments to:

- ◉ **support** the establishment of an Africa-Europe Fair Trade micro credit programme in three steps: **1.** training for African and European young people interested in setting up new fair trade projects; **2.** building links and creating spaces for partnership among the young Europeans and Africans; and **3.** Establishing a micro credit mechanism for funding of these fair trade projects;
- ◉ **enable** young Africans and Europeans to experience each others' cultures and living conditions through establishing awareness raising and intercultural programmes and support initiatives to map the realities in the youth sectors in Africa and Europe;
- ◉ **support** opportunities for volunteering and recognise the important contributions of young volunteers in Africa and Europe;
- ◉ **increase** structural, financial and administrative support to youth and students' exchanges and mobility programmes in the Africa-Europe context to reach their fullest potential of these programmes;
- ◉ **include** aspects of global trade and financial mechanisms and policies in youth exchange programmes;
- ◉ **provide** access to new and existing media tools to establish better connections between young people from Africa and Europe, to face and challenge stereotypes and enhance the image of the two continents;

## MANAGING CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**We demand** African and European Governments to:

- ◉ **promote** the complementarities of formal and non-formal education and recognise the core role education has in reaching out to young people concerning the challenges of Climate Change and Sustainable Development;
- ◉ **support** non-formal education through more capacity building activities as well as trainings for youth organisations coming from both regions with a specific focus on multipliers;

- ⦿ **ensure** full and effective youth participation at all levels in order to ensure a strong youth dimension in policies and programmes concerning climate change and sustainable development;
- ⦿ **give** space to young people and youth organisations for exchange and coordination among their activities, for example through regional, continental and inter-continental youth conferences on climate change and sustainable development;
- ⦿ **prepare** young people for a green society and jobs in an environmentally friendly economy and empower them to adapt to these effects of climate change that are irreversible;
- ⦿ **promote** knowledge, innovation and technology transfers between the North and the South, and vice versa, and remove obstacles in order to allow young people to use their full potential.

### BRINGING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRACY

**We demand** African and European Governments to:

- ⦿ **include** youth delegates from youth-led organisations in national delegations to all international meetings;
- ⦿ **ensure** that all institutions, including Parliaments, are representative of the youth populations in their countries, and facilitate communication between elected individuals and their communities;
- ⦿ **hold** regular elections to give new and young people the opportunity to take part in the decision-making processes;
- ⦿ **promote** and implement the latest tools and mechanisms, such as biometry, to guarantee democratic and transparent electoral processes and therefore empower youth organisations and civil society combating fraud, corruption and impunity;
- ⦿ **to empower** youth and ensure democratic practices in all decision-making mechanisms;
- ⦿ **improve** good governance and transparency through promoting youth friendly media to open up the political debate to young people;
- ⦿ **inform** African and European young people about their rights and responsibilities and how to access and protect them, for example through the African Youth Rights Charter and the European Human Rights Convention;
- ⦿ **jointly** work to ensure the reform of all international institutions, such as the United Nations, including the Security Council and its permanent members, so as to be representative of all continents of the world.



## ADDRESSING MIGRATION, MOBILITY, INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE AND CO-DEVELOPMENT

**We demand** African and European Governments to:

- ⦿ **remove** visa barriers for students, young investors and inventors and active youth workers, including but not only those active in the Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation;
- ⦿ **guarantee** all young people's autonomy and human rights (economic, political, social, religious and cultural) including the right to decent work in their countries of origin;
- ⦿ **we call** for special attention to be given to the rights of unaccompanied minor asylum seekers, as promised in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as special attention to families and ensure that all young people seeking asylum can have access to education;
- ⦿ **recognise** that migrants are in a vulnerable position both in countries of origin, in transit and in countries where they live, and ensure their fair treatment including at borders and in detention centres as well as afterwards and further combat human trafficking while recognising that women are particularly affected;
- ⦿ **to develop** policies that facilitate mobility and serve as incentives for professionals in countries of destination to participate in the development of their countries of origin;
- ⦿ **empower** youth organisations, in particularly Diaspora associations in host countries, so that they can assist migrants and become more involved in different levels of development;
- ⦿ **introduce** new temporary employment schemes allowing immigrants to obtain decent work while waiting for permanent permits to work and stay;
- ⦿ **revise** asylum legislation in order to grant refugees fleeing hunger and poverty the same rights as those fleeing conflict;
- ⦿ **promote** a more diverse use of cultural and historical references to represent communities in school curricula;
- ⦿ **encourage** community coherence by both keeping identities of the migrants as well as of a wider society;
- ⦿ **revise** asylum legislation in order to grant those fleeing from hunger and poverty the same rights as those fleeing from conflict;
- ⦿ **ensure** a commitment by the countries of origin, transit and destination to a better management of migration in a balanced, holistic and comprehensive manner, and in a spirit of responsibility and joint cooperation and the need for local development.

## ENSURING PEACE – FIGHTING CONFLICT

**We demand** African and European Governments, non-governmental organisations, international institutions, all key decision-makers and other relevant stakeholders to:

- ⦿ **include** a youth participation dimension in all electoral observation missions;
- ⦿ **support** and fund Africa-Europe youth exchange programs:
  - ♥ covering post-conflict zones in both Africa and Europe;
  - ♥ promoting tolerance and inter-religious dialogue;
  - ♥ dealing with ethnicity.
- ⦿ **involve** youth in peace negotiation processes and conflict resolution;
- ⦿ **create** formal and non-formal education tools to promote greater knowledge and increased understanding of democratic values and conflict prevention for young people;
- ⦿ **include** specific educational activities on peace and conflict in the Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation, such as a forum to share best practices;
- ⦿ **establish** to raise awareness of and advocate against arms trade, including lobbying for an international arms trade treaty;
- ⦿ **work** together towards the adoption of a UN resolution on Youth, Peace and Conflict, addressing the way youth is affected by conflict and ensuring the role of young people and youth organisations in conflict prevention and transformation;
- ⦿ **ask** from the Human Rights Council to enable an independent committee to visit the detention centres where immigrants are kept.

## CONTINUED FOLLOW-UP AND EVALUATION

**Looking forward** we stress the need for a yearly monitoring and evaluation of the Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation, performed by all parties involved in the partnership. We therefore mandate the partners in the Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation, namely the partnership between the European Union and the Council of Europe in the field of youth and the Joint Management Agreement between EuropeAid Cooperation office and the North-South Centre, to establish an Africa-Europe Youth Forum to institutionalise the instruments that allow young people to renew and reinforce the current Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation.

**Further**, to secure open cooperation, efficiency and transparency, the online platform for our cooperation should be developed to become a pool of richer resources incorporating, amongst others, best practices and a pool of volunteers.

# NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE



## Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



EUROPEAN UNION



COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

# Conclusions and Action Plan 2012 - 2015

YOUTH LEADERS MEETING ON YOUTH POLICIES  
IN THE CONTEXT OF THE  
AFRICA-EUROPE YOUTH COOPERATION

IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IN THE FIELD OF YOUTH

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 10 - 13<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2011



## African Union

**We**, youth leaders representing the Pan-African Youth Union, the European Youth Forum, the African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe and African Regional offices of International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations, gathered in Addis Ababa from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> April 2011 for "Youth Leaders Meeting on Youth Policies in the Context of the Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation", would like to thank the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe for organising, in the framework of the Partnership on Youth between European Commission and the Council, this meeting and the Vice President of the Pan African Youth Union office for East Africa and the Indian Ocean for hosting this meeting in Addis Ababa.

**We** are equally thankful for the presence and the political and institutional support of the African Union, represented at the meeting by Professor Jean-Pierre EZIN, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology and of the European Union represented by Ambassador Koen VERVAEKE, European Union Special Representative to the African Union.

**In the** meeting we had the opportunity to foster our understanding of the present policies and instruments for youth carried out by the African Union, the European Union and the Council of Europe as well as to debate possible synergies and sharing of best and inspirational practices among the institutions and regions in this field, such as the African Youth Charter, the Council of Europe co-management system and the European youth centres and foundation. We also strengthened our understanding on the implementation of the Joint EU-Africa Strategy and discuss the opportunities and challenges to foster youth involvement in implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the strategy.

**We** have discussed and agreed on our common action plan for the development of the Africa-Europe Youth dialogue and cooperation for the period of 2012-2015, as well as on the establishment of the Africa Europe Youth Platform.

**Working** together for three days we had the opportunity to identify the priority areas and actions for the implementation of the proposals and commitments made in the Youth Summits and we call upon the political support and resource mobilisation from our institutional partners, particularly the European Union, the African Union, the Council of Europe and the United Nations towards the implementation of this action plan.

**We** salute the initiative of the African Union of organising the next Summit of heads of State, to be held in July 2011 on the theme: "Accelerate Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development" providing an unique political moment to achieve the aspirations of the African Youth and the implementation of the African Youth Charter.

**This** meeting was also of key importance to strength our ties, to foster mutual understanding and to reaffirm the commitment of our organisations to continue the process of Africa Europe Youth Cooperation and our joint journey towards a better Africa, a better Europe and a better World.

**We** reaffirm that the priority areas for our cooperation are: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals; Common Fight for Decent Work for Young People; Managing Climate Change and Sustainable Development; Addressing Migration, Mobility, Intercultural Dialogue and Co-Development; Bringing Good Governance and Democracy; Tackling Globalisation, Trade and Socio-economic Development and Ensuring Peace – Fighting Conflict.

**In** consideration to the proposal made at the last Africa Europe Youth Summit, we have decided to create the Africa Europe Youth Platform, with the following understanding of its mission, objectives, composition and others:

## 1) The Africa-Europe Youth Platform (AEYP)

Monitoring, Evaluation and Governance of the Action Plan 2012-15:

### CORE MISSION OF THE AFRICA-EUROPE YOUTH PLATFORM

- ⦿ **preparation**/coordination of the Africa-Europe Youth cooperation;
- ⦿ **monitoring**/implementation of the Africa-Europe youth cooperation;
- ⦿ **evaluation**/follow-up of the Africa-Europe youth cooperation.

### OBJECTIVES

- ⦿ **tackle** the common challenges of young people from Africa and Europe.
- ⦿ **institutionalise** the dialogue and reinforce the coordinated action between all the parties involved.
- ⦿ **empower** youth organisations and young people in the Africa-Europe youth cooperation.

- ⊙ **to act** as the political body between youth summits and be the steering body for the preparations and implementation of the Africa Europe Youth Summits.
- ⊙ **provide** a political dimension to the African University on Youth & Development and use it as a tool in the Africa-Europe youth cooperation
- ⊙ **be the** youth voice towards the Monitoring and implementation of the Joint EU-Africa Strategy and the respective Actions Plans [representation function on behalf of the Africa-Europe youth].

### MEMBERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

**Africa :** Pan African Youth Union + Vice-President's of 5 African Sub-regions;

**Europe :** European Youth Forum + 5 National Youth Councils + Advisory Council of CoE;

**INGYO (Internationals):** max. 10 (balanced between African/European offices);

**Diaspora :** African Diaspora Youth Network Europe (1 Board member + 1 national ADYNE representative);

The respective Stakeholders shall seek gender balance in appointing their representatives.

**Institutions:** North-South Centre of the CoE (partner → assists and facilitates the process also in practical terms), African Union Commission + European Commission + all other institutional partners applicable.

**Decision-making processes:** we strive for consensus but in case a need for vote would arise, 24 votes are consider (only youth representatives/stakeholders will have voting right).

**Facilitation of the process:** we call upon the North-South Centre of CoE to continue its role.

### RESOURCES AND FUNDING OF THE AFRICA EUROPE YOUTH PLATFORM

**The Africa Europe** Youth Platform seeks to be resourced by the existing instruments funding the Africa Europe Youth Cooperation, namely the *Partnership between the European Commission and the European Union in the field of Youth and the Joint Management Agreement between the office of Europe Aid and the North-South Centre*. The AEYP should also seek financial support with the African Union (AU).

## MEETINGS OF THE AFRICA EUROPE YOUTH PLATFORM

**The Africa Europe** Youth Platform will meet once per year with its full constituency. The meetings will be strategically located, both in terms of calendar and venue (i.e Addis Ababa, in the framework of other AU and EU meetings or of the Joint EU Africa Strategy).

**In the** framework of the annual meetings of the AEYP, thematic meetings will be organised – to which the relevant institutional actors will be invited – with the aim to develop and agree on strategies to deal with specific priorities.

**An annual** coordination meeting, composed by 1 representative from each stakeholder, will be foreseen to prepare and coordinate the AEYP.







# Action Plan 2012-15: Africa Europe Youth Cooperation

## 2) CAPACITY-BUILDING

**The continuation** of the capacity-building Dimension of the Africa Europe youth programme is crucial for the development of Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation; this should be done both through the Africa-Europe Training Courses, the development of a Training Kit, e-learning opportunities and the Seed-Funding for pilot projects.

### A) Trainings

**The Training** programme should include an annual training course for Youth Organisations and Youth Leaders (in cooperation with the YFJ and the PYU); an annual training course for Diaspora Youth Organisations and Groups (in cooperation with ADYNE); and training for trainers. The training courses should aim at covering the thematic priorities of the Africa Europe youth cooperation, to be annually defined by the AEYP.

**The African** University on Youth and Development should be consolidated as permanent annual feature and follow a thematic approach to be defined by the AEYP. Managing Climate Change and Sustainable Development and Addressing Migration, Mobility, Intercultural Dialogue and Co-Development were identified as two priority thematic areas for the African University in the upcoming period.

### B) Production of Training Resources and Materials

**Over the** next four years, a Training Kit on Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation will be conceived, disseminated and used for multiplying effects. It will also be made available on-line (see Online Resources Centre). The Training kit should address the thematic priorities.

### C) Seed Funding

**The seed-**funding for pilot projects initiated in the present Joint Management Agreement should be continued and strengthened and mobilise other funders both public and private, responding to

the thematic priorities, particularly: Climate Change, Food Security and Youth Entrepreneurship should be considered in the next rounds of calls for pilot projects.

### 3) ONLINE RESOURCES CENTRE

**The design**, development and implementation of a web-based tool will be the cornerstone and the visible face of a fully-fledged communication strategy that will include (but won't be limited to) the ongoing mapping exercise, a database covering information about youth organisations active on both continents, the political and institutional framework, information about activities and projects, funding opportunities, pedagogical resources and e-learning, good and inspirational practices, etc.

**The above** mentioned communication strategy, to be adopted by the AEYP, should serve the two-fold purpose of addressing both the needs of improving communication among the members and the communication with the external world. Therefore, different target groups should be identified, including: the youth in general, the youth organisations (both the members of our networks and others) and the institutional interlocutors (the CoE, the EU, the AU, the UN and, obviously, their Member States).

**The communication** and information strategy should be organised and based on raising awareness about the thematic priorities in particularly the MDGs, the successes and the shortcomings of the process so far and how the challenges affect young people, but will also serve the purposes of collecting and giving visibility to good practices by youth organisations (special focus on Non Formal Education activities and youth exchanges) and exerting influence over the institutions.

**This should** be done in creative ways and making full use of the possibilities offered by modern information technologies (Web 2.0). The more capable members of the AEYP should be invited to contribute and kick-start the production of tools, and the messages/resources should focus primarily on: Food Security, HIV/AIDS, Gender Equality and Education; and the message should aim at justifying the need and the usefulness for more resources for youth organisations.

### 4) ADVOCACY

**The Africa-Europe** Youth Cooperation will continue to focus its efforts on the implementation of the conclusions and demands expressed on the final declarations of the Africa-Europe Youth Summits held in 2007 and in 2010. The seven priority areas will remain as the guideline for our common advocacy work and the promotion, popularisation and implementation of the African Youth Charter will continue to be a strategic commitment of our common action over the next four years.

**In the framework** of the annual meetings of the AEYP, thematic meetings will be organised – to which the relevant institutional actors will be invited – with the aim to develop and agree on strategies to deal with specific priorities. Following the suggestions made by the participants at the meetings, the topics for the first four years will be: Common Fight for Decent Work for Young People, Managing Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Bringing Good Governance and Democracy, and Ensuring Peace – Fighting Conflict (not necessarily in this order).



# African Youth Charter

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**The African Union** Commission wishes to express its deep appreciation to all its partners for their unconditional support, which gave birth to The African Youth Charter, especially the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) for their professional and technical commitment and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for its financial and technical support.

**The Commission** equally acknowledges with pride and satisfaction the inputs of the African Youth, the Youth Experts and African Ministers of Youth who scrutinized the draft Youth Charter before its adoption by the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government held on July 2 2006 in Banjul, the Gambia.

## FOREWORD

**The African Union** Constitutive Act and the African Union Commission strategic plan 2004-2007 underscore the importance of youth participation and involvement in the development of the continent. They give due priority to youth development and empowerment. Indeed, Africa's renaissance cannot be realized if adequate investment is not made in the youth who constitute about 40 percent of the African population. To give substance to this commitment to the development of African youth, the AU has since developed a policy framework in the form of the African Youth Charter, which prescribes responsibilities to Member States for the development of youth. The Summit of Heads of State and Government adopted this Charter at their Summit in Banjul in July 2006.

**The African Youth Charter**, not only provides the Governments, Youth, Civil Society and International Partners, with a continental framework, which, underlines to the rights, duties and freedoms of youth, but also paves the way for the development of national programmes and strategic plans for their empowerment.

**The second** key objective of the Youth Charter is to ensure the constructive involvement of Youth in the development agenda of Africa and their effective participation of in the debates and decision-making processes about the development of the continent. The Charter sets a framework to enable policy makers to mainstream Youth issues in all

development policies and programmes. It thus provides a legal basis for ensuring Youth presence and participation in government structures and forums at national, regional and continental levels.

**Thirdly the** Charter provides important guidelines and responsibilities of Member States for the empowerment of Youth in key strategic areas, namely Education and skills development, Poverty Eradication and Socio-economic Integration of Youth, Sustainable Livelihoods and Youth Employment, Health, Peace and Security, Law Enforcement, Sustainable Development and Protection of the Environment. It is expected that the execution of these guidelines would not only provide the youth with necessary tools for livelihood but also stem the flow of Africa's most important resource to other parts of the world.

**Finally the** Charter outlines the responsibilities of Youth to their own development and to their countries and continent. In other words, the rights embodied in the Charter are accompanied by responsibilities as well. The Youth cannot expect governments to empower them while they do the opposite by abusing themselves in various ways such as substance abuse. To be able to get maximum benefits from the implementation of the Charter it is expected that youth would also develop and promote the required self-discipline."

**I have** the privilege to encourage Heads of State and Government in all member States to ratify the Charter as soon as possible and support the process of popularizing the Charter at national levels. I also invite our development partners to assist African youth in their role as custodians of their own development and to partake fully in citizenship duties towards the socio-economic development of their countries.

**Finally, the African Union commission reiterates its commitment to fulfil its duty towards African youth development and empowerment for the development of the continent.**

**Prof. Nagia M. Essayed**

Commissioner,

Human Resources, Science and Technology

## Preamble

**Guided** by the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the States Parties to the present "African Youth Charter";

**Guided** by the vision, hopes and aspirations of the African Union, inclusive of Africa's integration, the inherent dignity and inalienable rights afforded to all members of the human family as set out in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1976) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1976), and articulated for the African peoples through the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (1986);

**Recalling** the resolution of the Heads of State and Government during the 1999 Algiers Summit for the development of the Pan-African Charter;

**Fully attached** to the virtues and values of African historical tradition and civilization which form the foundation for our concept of people's rights;

**Recalling** the historic injustices imposed on Africa such as slavery, colonization, depletion of natural resources and taking into account the firm will of African peoples for self-determination and the economic integration of Africa;

**Convinced** that Africa's greatest resource is its youthful population and that through their active and full participation, Africans can surmount the difficulties that lie ahead;

**Bearing in mind** the international Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979) and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights relating to the Rights of Women in Africa (2003) and the progress achieved in eliminating gender discrimination, but ever cognisant of the obstacles that still prevent girls and women from fully participating in African society;

**Reaffirming** the need to take appropriate measures to promote and protect the rights and welfare of children as outlined in the Convention of the Rights of the Child (1989) and through the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1999);

**Acknowledging** the commitments already made towards the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and inviting the partners to reaffirm their support to advance the wellbeing of youth;

**Recognising** the efforts made by States Parties and civil societies to address the economic, social, educational, cultural and spiritual needs of youth;

**Noting** with concern the situation of African youth, many of whom are marginalized from mainstream society through inequalities in income, wealth and power, unemployment and underemployment, infected and affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, living in situations of poverty and hunger, experiencing illiteracy and poor quality educational systems, restricted access to health services and to information, exposure to violence including gender violence, engaging in armed conflicts and experiencing various forms of discrimination;

**Recalling** the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and beyond and the ten priority areas identified for youth (education, employment, hunger and poverty, health, environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure-time activities, girls and young women and youth participating in decision-making), and the five additional areas (HIV/AIDS, ICT, Inter-generational dialogue,...) adopted at the 2005 UN General assembly;

**Recognising** that youth are partners, assets and a prerequisite for sustainable development and for the peace and prosperity of Africa with a unique contribution to make to the present and to future development;

**Considering** the role that youth have played in the process of decolonisation, the struggle against apartheid and more recently in its efforts to encourage the development and to promote the democratic processes on the African Continent;

**Reaffirming** that the continuous cultural development of Africa rests with its youth and therefore requires their active and enlightened participation as espoused in the Cultural Charter for Africa ;

**Guided** by the New Partnership for Africa's Development Strategic Framework for Youth Programme of 2004 that is working towards youth empowerment and development;

**Acknowledging** the increasing calls and the enthusiasm of youth to actively participate at local, national, regional and international levels to determine their own development and the advancement of society at large;

**Acknowledging also** the call in Bamako (2005) by the youth organisations across Africa to empower youth by building their capacity, leadership, responsibilities and provide access to information such that they can take up their rightful place as active agents in decision-making and governance;

**Taking into consideration** the inter-relatedness of the challenges facing youth and the need for cross-sectoral policies and programmes that attend to the needs of youth in a holistic manner;



**Considering** that the promotion and protection of the rights of youth also implies the performance of duties by youth as by all other actors in society;

**Taking into consideration** the needs and aspirations of young displaced persons, refugees and youth with special needs,

### **Have agreed as follows: Definitions**

**“Chairperson”** shall mean the Chairperson of the African Union Commission;

**“Charter”** shall mean the African Youth Charter;

**“Commission”** shall mean the Commission of African Union

**“Diaspora”** shall mean peoples of African descent and heritage living outside the continent, irrespective of their citizenship and who remain committed to contribute to the development of the continent and the building of the African Union (DOC.EX.CL/164(VII))

**“Member States”** shall mean Member States of the African Union

**“Minors”** shall mean young people aged 15 to 17 years subject to each country’s laws

**“States Parties”** shall mean Member States, which have ratified or acceded to the present Charter;

**“Union”** shall mean the African Union

**“Youth”** For the purposes of this Charter, youth or young people shall refer to every person between the ages of 15 and 35 years.

## **Part 1: Rights and Duties**

### **Article 1: Obligation of State Parties**

- 1.** States Parties of the African Union to the present Charter shall recognize the rights, freedoms and duties enshrined in this Charter.
- 2.** State Parties shall undertake the necessary steps, in accordance with their Constitutional processes and with the provisions of the present Charter, to adopt such legislative or other measures that may be necessary to give effect to the provisions of the Charter.

### **Article 2 : Non-discrimination**

- 1.** Every young person shall be entitled to the enjoyments of the rights and freedoms recognized and guaranteed in this Charter

irrespective of their race, ethnic group, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national and social origin, fortune, birth or other status.

2. States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure that youth are protected against all forms of discrimination on the basis of status, activities, expressed opinions or beliefs.
3. State Parties shall recognize the rights of Young people from ethnic, religious and linguistic marginalized groups or youth of indigenous origin, to enjoy their own culture, freely practice their own religion or to use their own language in community with other members of their group.

#### **Article 3 : Freedom of Movement**

1. Every young person has the right to leave any country, including his/her own, and to return to his/her country.

#### **Article 4 : Freedom of Expression**

1. Every young person shall be assured the right to express his or her ideas and opinions freely in all matters and to disseminate his or her ideas and opinions subject to the restrictions as are prescribed by laws.
2. Every young person shall have the freedom to seek, receive and disseminate information and ideas of all kinds, either orally, in writing, in print, in the form of art or through any media of the young person's choice subject to the restrictions as are prescribed by laws.

#### **Article 5 : Freedom of Association**

1. Every young person shall have the right to free association and freedom of peaceful assembly in conformity with the law.
2. Young people shall not be compelled to belong to an association.

#### **Article 6 : Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion**

1. Every young person shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

#### **Article 7 : Protection of Private Life**

1. No young person shall be subject to the arbitrary or unlawful interference with his/her privacy, residence or correspondence, or to attacks upon his/her honour or reputation.

#### **Article 8 : Protection of the Family**

1. The family, as the most basic social institution, shall enjoy the

full protection and support of States Parties for its establishment and development noting that the structure and form of families varies in different social and cultural contexts.

2. Young men and women of full age who enter into marriage shall do so based on their free consent and shall enjoy equal rights and responsibilities.

#### **Article 9 : Property**

1. Every young person shall have the right to own and to inherit property.
2. States Parties shall ensure that young men and young women enjoy equal rights to own property.
3. States Parties shall ensure that youth are not arbitrarily deprived of their property including inherited property.

#### **Article 10 : Development**

1. Every young person shall have the right to social, economic, political and cultural development with due regard to their freedom and identity and in equal enjoyment of the common heritage of mankind.
2. States Parties shall encourage youth organizations to lead youth programmes and to ensure the exercise of the right to development.
3. States Parties shall:
  - a) Encourage the media to disseminate information that will be of economic, political, social and cultural benefit to youth;
  - b) Promote the development of youth media for the dissemination of information to young people;
  - c) Encourage international Cooperation in the production, exchange and dissemination of information from both national and international sources that are of economic, social and cultural value to youth;
  - d) Provide access to information and education and training for young people to learn their rights and responsibilities, to be schooled in democratic processes, citizenship, decision-making, governance and leadership such that they develop the technical skills and confidence to participate in these processes;

#### **Article 11 : Youth Participation**

1. Every young person shall have the right to participate in all spheres of society.
2. States Parties shall take the following measures to promote active youth participation in society:

They shall:

- a)** Guarantee the participation of youth in parliament and other decision-making bodies in accordance with the prescribed laws;
- b)** Facilitate the creation or strengthening of platforms for youth participation in decision-making at local, national, regional, and continental levels of governance;
- c)** Ensure equal access to young men and young women to participate in decision-making and in fulfilling civic duties;
- d)** Give priority to policies and programmes including youth advocacy and peer-to-peer programmes for marginalised youth, such as out-of-school and out-of-work youth, to offer them the opportunity and motivation to re-integrate into mainstream society;
- e)** Provide access to information such that young people become aware of their rights and of opportunities to participate in decision-making and civic life;
- f)** Institute measures to professionalize youth work and introduce relevant training programmes in higher education and other such training institutions;
- g)** Provide technical and financial support to build the institutional capacity of youth organisations;
- h)** Institute policy and programmes of youth voluntarism at local, national, regional and international levels as an important form of youth participation and as a means of peer-to-peer training.
- i)** Provide access to information and services that will empower youth to become aware of their rights and responsibilities,
- j)** Include youth representatives as part of delegations to ordinary sessions and other relevant meetings to broaden channels of communication and enhance the discussion of youth related issues.

#### **Article 12 : National Youth Policy**

- 1.** Every State Parties shall develop a comprehensive and coherent national youth policy:
  - a)** The policy shall be cross-sectoral in nature considering the inter-relatedness of the challenges facing young people;
  - b)** The development of a national youth policy shall be informed by extensive consultation with young people and cater for their active participation in decision-making at all levels of

governance in issues concerning youth and society as a whole;

**c)** A youth perspective shall be integrated and mainstreamed into all planning and decision-making as well as programme development. The appointment of youth focal points in government structures shall enable this process;

**d)** Mechanisms to address these youth challenges shall be framed within the national development framework of the country;

**e)** The policy shall provide guidelines on the definition of youth adopted and specify subgroups that shall be targeted for development;

**f)** The policy shall advocate equal opportunities for young men and for young women;

**g)** A baseline evaluation or situation analysis shall inform the policy on the priority issues for youth development;

**h)** The policy shall be adopted by parliament and enacted into law;

**i)** A national youth coordinating mechanism shall be set up and shall provide a platform as well as serve as a linking agent for youth organisations to participate in youth policy development as well as the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of related programmes;

**j)** National programmes of action shall be developed that are time bound and that are connected to an implementation and evaluation strategy for which indicators shall be outlined;

**k)** Such a programme of action shall be accompanied by adequate and sustained budgetary allocation.

### **Article 13 : Education and Skills Development**

**1.** Every young person shall have the right to education of good quality.

**2.** The value of multiple forms of education, including formal, non-formal, informal, distance learning and life-long learning, to meet the diverse needs of young people shall be embraced.

**3.** The education of young people shall be directed to:

**a)** The promotion and holistic development of the young person's cognitive and creative and emotional abilities to their full potential;

**b)** Fostering respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as set out in the provisions of the various African human and people's rights and international human rights declarations and conventions;;

**c)** Preparing young people for responsible lives in free societies that promote peace, understanding, tolerance, dialogue, mutual

respect and friendship among all nations and across all groupings of people;

**d)** The preservation and strengthening of positive African morals, traditional values and cultures and the development of national and African identity and pride;

**e)** The development of respect for the environment and natural resources;

**f)** The development of life skills to function effectively in society and include issues such as HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, substance abuse prevention and cultural practices that are harmful to the health of young girls and women as part of the education curricula.

**4.** States Parties shall take all appropriate measures with a view to achieving full realisation of this right and shall, in particular:

**a)** Provide free and compulsory basic education and take steps to minimise the indirect costs of education;

**b)** Make all forms of secondary education more readily available and accessible by all possible means including progressively free;

**c)** Take steps to encourage regular school attendance and reduce drop-out rates;

**d)** Strengthen participation in and the quality of training in science and technology;

**e)** Revitalise vocational education and training relevant to current and prospective employment opportunities and expand access by developing centres in rural and remote areas;

**f)** Make higher education equally accessible to all including establishing distance learning centres of excellence;

**g)** Avail multiple access points for education and skills development including opportunities outside of mainstream educational institutions e.g., workplace skills development, distance learning, adult literacy and national youth service programmes;

**h)** Ensure, where applicable, that girls and young women who become pregnant or married before completing their education shall have the opportunity to continue their education;

**i)** Allocate resources to upgrade the quality of education delivered and ensure that it is relevant to the needs of contemporary society and engenders critical thinking rather than rote learning;

**j)** Adopt pedagogy that incorporates the benefits of and trains young people in the use of modern information and communi-

cation technology such that youth are better prepared for the world of work;

**k)** Encourage youth participation in community work as part of education to build a sense of civic duty;

**l)** Introduce scholarship and bursary programmes to encourage entry into post-primary school education and into higher education outstanding youth from disadvantaged communities, especially young girls;

**m)** Establish and encourage participation of all young men and young women in sport, cultural and recreational activities as part of holistic development;

**n)** Promote culturally appropriate, age specific sexuality and responsible parenthood education;

**o)** Promote the equivalence of degrees between African educational institutions to enable the youth to study and work in State Parties;

**p)** Adopt preferential recruitment policies for African youth with specialised skills amongst States Parties.

**5.** Youth are determined to transform the continent in the fields of science and technology. Therefore they are committed to:

**a)** Promoting and using science and technology in Africa;

**b)** Conducting research towards science and technology.

**6.** State Parties should encourage youth to conduct research. In this regard, an African discoveries day should be established along with mechanism of awarding prizes at the continental level.

**7.** Enterprises that are located in Africa should establish partnerships with training institutions to contribute to technology transfer for the benefit of African students and researchers.

**Article 14: Poverty Eradication and Socio-economic Integration of Youth:**

**1.** States Parties shall: Recognise the right of young people to a standard of living adequate for their holistic development;

**2.** Recognise the right of young people to be free from hunger and shall take individual or collective measures to:

**a)** Enhance the attractiveness of rural areas to young people by improving access to services and facilities such as educational and cultural services;

**b)** Train young people to take up agricultural, mineral, commercial and industrial production using contemporary systems and



promote the benefits of modern information and communication technology to gain access to existing and new markets;

**c)** Provide grants of land to youth and youth organisations for socio-economic development purposes;

**d)** Facilitate access to credit to promote youth participation in agricultural and other sustainable livelihood projects;

**e)** Facilitate the participation of young people in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national development plans, policies and poverty reduction strategies;

- 3.** Recognise the right of every young person to benefit from social security, including social insurance.

In this regard, States Parties shall take the necessary measures to achieve the full realisation of these rights in accordance with their national law especially when the security of food tenure, clothing, housing and other basic needs are compromised.

#### **Article 15: Sustainable Livelihoods and Youth Employment**

- 1.** Every young person shall have the right to gainful employment.

- 2.** Every young person shall have the right to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing work that is likely to be hazardous to or interfere with the young person's education, or to be harmful to the young person's health or holistic development.

- 3.** States Parties shall address and ensure the availability of accurate data on youth employment, unemployment and underemployment so as to facilitate the prioritisation of the issue in National development programmes complemented by clear programmes to address unemployment;

- 4.** States Parties shall take all appropriate measures with a view to achieving full realisation of this right to gainful employment and shall in particular:

**a)** Ensure equal access to employment and equal pay for equal work or equal value of work and offer protection against discrimination regardless of ethnicity, race, gender, disability, religion, political, social, cultural or economic background;

**b)** Develop macroeconomic policies that focus on job creation particularly for youth and for young women;

**c)** Develop measures to regulate the informal economy to prevent unfair labour practices where the majority of youth work;

**d)** Foster greater linkages between the labour market and the education and training system to ensure that curricula are aligned to the needs of the labour market and that youth are being

trained in fields where employment opportunities are available or are growing;

**e)** Implement appropriately-timed career guidance for youth as part of the schooling and post-schooling education system;

**f)** Promote youth entrepreneurship by including entrepreneurship training in the school curricula, providing access to credit, business development skills training, mentorship opportunities and better information on market opportunities;

**g)** Institute incentive schemes for employers to invest in the skills development of employed and unemployed youth;

**h)** Institute national youth service programmes to engender community participation and skills development for entry into the labour market.

#### **Article 16 : Health**

**1.** Every young person shall have the right to enjoy the best attainable state of physical, mental and spiritual health.

**2.** States Parties shall undertake to pursue the full implementation of this right and in particular shall take measures to:

**a)** Make available equitable and ready access to medical assistance and health care especially in rural and poor urban areas with an emphasis on the development of primary health care;

**b)** Secure the full involvement of youth in identifying their reproductive and health needs and designing programmes that respond to these needs with special attention to vulnerable and disadvantaged youth;

**c)** Provide access to youth friendly reproductive health services including contraceptives, antenatal and post natal services;

**d)** Institute programmes to address health pandemics in Africa such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria;

**e)** Institute comprehensive programmes to prevent the transmission of sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS by providing education, information, communication and awareness creation as well as making protective measures and reproductive health services available;

**f)** Expand the availability and encourage the uptake of voluntary counselling and confidential testing for HIV/AIDS;

**g)** Provide timely access to treatment for young people infected with HIV/AIDS including prevention of mother to child transmission, post rape prophylaxis, and anti-retroviral therapy and creation of health services specific for young people;

- h)** Provide food security for people living with HIV/AIDS;
- i)** Institute comprehensive programmes including legislative steps to prevent unsafe abortions;
- j)** Take legislative steps such as banning advertising and increasing price in addition to instituting comprehensive preventative and curative programmes to control the consumption of tobacco, exposure to environmental tobacco smoke and alcohol abuse;
- k)** Raise awareness amongst youth on the dangers of drug abuse through partnerships with youth, youth organisations and the community;
- l)** Strengthen local, national, regional and international partnerships to eradicate the demand, supply and trafficking of drugs including using youth to traffic drugs;
- m)** Provide rehabilitation for young people abusing drugs such that they can be re-integrated into social and economic life;
- n)** Provide technical and financial support to build the institutional capacity of youth organisations to address public health concerns including issues concerning youth with disabilities and young people married at an early age.

#### **Article 17 : Peace and Security**

- 1.** In view of the important role of youth in promoting peace and non-violence and the lasting physical and psychological scars that result from involvement in violence, armed conflict and war, States Parties shall:
  - a)** Strengthen the capacity of young people and youth organisations in peace building, conflict prevention and conflict resolution through the promotion of intercultural learning, civic education, tolerance, human rights education and democracy, mutual respect for cultural, ethnic and religious diversity, the importance of dialogue and cooperation, responsibility, solidarity and international cooperation;
  - b)** Institute mechanisms to promote a culture of peace and tolerance amongst young people that discourages their participation in acts of violence, terrorism, xenophobia, racial discrimination, gender-based discrimination, foreign occupation and trafficking in arms and drugs;
  - c)** Institute education to promote a culture of peace and dialogue in all schools and training centres at all levels;
  - d)** Condemn armed conflict and prevent the participation, involvement, recruitment and sexual slavery of young people in armed conflict;

- e) Take all feasible measures to protect the civilian population, including youth, who are affected and displaced by armed conflict;
  - f) Mobilise youth for the reconstruction of areas devastated by war, bringing help to refugees and war victims and promoting peace, reconciliation and rehabilitation activities;
  - g) Take appropriate measures to promote physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of young victims of armed conflict and war by providing access to education and skills development such as vocational training to resume social and economic life.
2. States parties shall ensure the protection of the youth against the ideology of genocide.

#### **Article 18 : Law Enforcement**

1. Every young person accused or found guilty of having infringed the penal law shall have the right to be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person.
2. States Parties shall in particular:
- a) Ensure that youth who are detained or imprisoned or in rehabilitation centres are not subjected to torture, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment;
  - b) Ensure that accused minors shall be segregated from convicted persons and shall be subject to separate treatment appropriate to their status;
  - c) Build rehabilitation facilities for accused and imprisoned youth who are still minors and house them separately from adults;
  - d) Provide induction programmes for imprisoned youth that are based on reformation, social rehabilitation and re-integration into family life;
  - e) Make provisions for the continued education and skills development of imprisoned young people as part of the restorative justice process.
  - f) Ensure that accused and convicted young people are entitled to a lawyer.

#### **Article 19 : Sustainable Development and Protection of the Environment**

1. States Parties shall ensure the use of sustainable methods to improve the lives of young people such that measures instituted do not jeopardise opportunities for future generations.

- 2.** States Parties shall recognise the vested interest of young people in protecting the natural environment as the inheritors of the environment. In this regard, they shall:
- a)** Encourage the media, youth organisations, in partnership with national and international organisations, to produce, exchange and disseminate information on environmental preservation and best practices to protect the environment;
  - b)** Train youth in the use of technologies that protect and conserve the environment;
  - c)** Support youth organisations in instituting programmes that encourage environmental preservation such as waste reduction, recycling and tree planting programmes;
  - d)** Facilitate youth participation in the design, implementation and evaluation of environmental policies including the conservation of African natural resources at local, national, regional and international levels;
  - e)** Develop realistic and flexible strategies for the regeneration of forests;
  - f)** Initiate intensive actions to prevent the expansion of deserts.

#### **Article 20 : Youth and Culture**

- 1.** States Parties shall take the following steps to promote and protect the morals and traditional values recognised by the community:
- a)** Eliminate all traditional practices that undermine the physical integrity and dignity of women;
  - b)** Recognise and value beliefs and traditional practices that contribute to development;
  - c)** Establish institutions and programmes for the development, documentation, preservation and dissemination of culture;
  - d)** Work with educational institutions, youth organisations, the media and other partners to raise awareness of and teach and inform young people about African culture, values and indigenous knowledge;
  - e)** Harness the creativity of youth to promote local cultural values and traditions by representing them in a format acceptable to youth and in a language and in forms to which youth are able to relate;
  - f)** Introduce and intensify teaching in African languages in all forms of education as a means to accelerate economic, social, political and cultural development;

- g)** Promote inter-cultural awareness by organising exchange programmes between young people and youth organisations within and across States Parties.
- 2.** States Parties recognise that the shift towards a knowledge-based economy is dependent on information and communication technology, which in turn has contributed towards a dynamic youth culture and global consciousness. In this regard, they shall:
- a)** Promote widespread access to information and communication technology as a means for education, employment creation, interacting effectively with the world and building understanding, tolerance and appreciation of other youth cultures;
  - b)** Encourage the local production of and access to information and communication technology content;
  - c)** Engage young people and youth organisations to understand the nexus between contemporary youth culture and traditional African culture, and enable them to express this fusion through drama, art, writing, music and other cultural and artistic forms;
  - d)** Help young people to use positive elements of globalisation such as science and technology and information and communication technology to promote new cultural forms that link the past to the future.

#### **Article 21 : Youth in the Diaspora**

- 1.** States Parties shall recognise the right of young people to live anywhere in the world. In this regard, they shall:
- a)** Promote the equivalence of degrees between African educational institutions to enable the youth to study and work in State Parties;
  - b)** Promote the recruitment of African youth with specialized skills, in the spirit of African solutions for African problems, according to national policies and priorities;
  - c)** Facilitate youth organisations to liaise and collaborate with the African youth Diaspora;
  - d)** Establish structures that encourage and assist the youth in the Diaspora to return to and fully re-integrate into the social and economic life in Africa;
  - e)** Promote and protect the rights of young people living in the Diaspora;
  - f)** Encourage young people in the Diaspora to engage themselves in development activities in their country of origin.

## **Article 22 : Leisure, Recreation, Sportive and Cultural Activities**

**1.** Young people shall have the right to rest and leisure and to engage in play and recreational activities that are part of a health lifestyle as well as to participate freely in sport, physical education drama, the arts, music and other forms of cultural life. In this regard, States Parties shall:

- a)** Make provision for equal access for young men and young women to sport, physical education, cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activities;
- b)** Put in place adequate infrastructure and services in rural and urban areas for youth to participate in sport, physical education, cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activities.

## **Article 23 : Girls and Young Women**

**1.** States Parties acknowledge the need to eliminate discrimination against girls and young women according to obligations stipulated in various international, regional and national human rights conventions and instruments designed to protect and promote women's rights. In this regard, they shall:

- a)** Introduce legislative measures that eliminate all forms of discrimination against girls and young women and ensure their human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- b)** Ensure that girls and young women are able to participate actively, equally and effectively with boys at all levels of social, educational, economic, political, cultural, civic life and leadership as well as scientific endeavours;
- c)** Institute programmes to make girls and young women aware of their rights and of opportunities to participate as equal members of society;
- d)** Guarantee universal and equal access to and completion of a minimum of nine years of formal education;
- e)** Guarantee equal access to and completion of vocational, secondary and higher education in order to effectively address the existing imbalance between young men and women in certain professions;
- f)** Ensure that education material and teaching practices are gender sensitive and encourage girls and young women to undertake studies in the sciences;



**g)** Provide educational systems that do not impede girls and young women, including married and/or pregnant young women, from attending;

**h)** Take steps to provide equal access to health care services and nutrition for girls and young women;

**i)** Protect girls and young women from economic exploitation and from performing work that is hazardous, takes them away from education or that is harmful to their mental or physical health;

**j)** Offer equal access to young women to employment and promote their participation in all sectors of employment;

**k)** Introduce special legislation and programmes of action that make available opportunities to girls and young women including access to education as a prerequisite and a priority for rapid social and economic development;

**l)** Enact and enforce legislation that protect girls and young women from all forms of violence, genital mutilation, incest, rape, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, trafficking, prostitution and pornography;

**m)** Develop programmes of action that provide legal, physical and psychological support to girls and young women who have been subjected to violence and abuse such that they can fully re-integrate into social and economic life;

**n)** Secure the right for young women to maternity leave.

#### **Article 24 : Mentally and Physically Challenged Youth**

**1.** States Parties recognise the right of mentally and physically challenged youth to special care and shall ensure that they have equal and effective access to education, training, health care services, employment, sport, physical education and cultural and recreational activities.

**2.** State Parties shall work towards eliminating any obstacles that may have negative implications for the full integration of mentally and physically challenged youth into society including the provision of appropriate infrastructure and services to facilitate easy mobility.

#### **Article 25 : Elimination of Harmful Social and Cultural Practices**

**1.** State Parties shall take all appropriate steps to eliminate harmful social and cultural practices that affect the welfare and dignity of youth, in particular:

**a)** Customs and practices that harm the health, life or dignity of the youth;

**b)** Customs and practices discriminatory to youth on the basis of gender, age or other status.

### **Article 26 : Responsibilities of Youth**

**1.** Every young person shall have responsibilities towards his family and society, the State, and the international community. Youth shall have the duty to:

- a)** Become the custodians of their own development;
- b)** Protect and work for family life and cohesion;
- c)** Have full respect for parents and elders and assist them any-time in cases of need in the context of positive African values;
- d)** Partake fully in citizenship duties including voting, decision making and governance;
- e)** Engage in peer-to-peer education to promote youth development in areas such as literacy, use of information and communication technology, HIV/AIDS prevention, violence prevention and peace building;
- f)** Contribute to the promotion of the economic development of States Parties and Africa by placing their physical and intellectual abilities at its service;
- g)** Espouse an honest work ethic and reject and expose corruption;
- h)** Work towards a society free from substance abuse, violence, coercion, crime, degradation, exploitation and intimidation;
- i)** Promote tolerance, understanding, dialogue, consultation and respect for others regardless of age, race, ethnicity, colour, gender, ability, religion, status or political affiliation;
- j)** Defend democracy, the rule of law and all human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- k)** Encourage a culture of voluntarism and human rights protection as well as participation in civil society activities;
- l)** Promote patriotism towards and unity and cohesion of Africa;
- m)** Promote, preserve and respect African traditions and cultural heritage and pass on this legacy to future generations;
- n)** Become the vanguard of re-presenting cultural heritage in languages and in forms to which youth are able to relate;
- o)** Protect the environment and conserve nature.

**Article 27 : Popularization of the Charter**

1. States Parties shall have the duty to promote and ensure through teaching, education and publication, the respect of rights, responsibilities and freedoms contained in the present Charter and to see to it that these freedoms, rights and responsibilities as well as corresponding obligations and duties are understood.

**Article 28 : Duties of the African Union Commission**

1. The African Union Commission shall ensure that States Parties respect the commitments made and fulfil the duties outlined in the present Charter by:
  - a) Collaborating with governmental, non-governmental institutions and developmental partners to identify best practices on youth policy formulation and implementation and encouraging the adaptation of principles and experiences among States Parties;
  - b) Inviting States Parties to include youth representatives as part of their delegations to the ordinary sessions of the African Union and other relevant meetings of the policy organs to broaden the channels of communication and enhance the discussion of youth-related issues;
  - c) Instituting measures to create awareness of its activities and make information on its activities more readily available and accessible to youth;
  - d) Facilitating exchange and cooperation between youth organizations across national borders in order to develop regional youth solidarity, political consciousness and democratic participation in collaboration with development partners.

## Part 2: Final Provisions

### Article 29 : Savings clause

1. Nothing in this Charter shall be taken as minimising higher standards and values contained in other relevant human rights instruments ratified by States concerned or rational law or policies.

### Article 30 : Signature, Ratification or Adherence

1. The present Charter shall be open to signature by all the Member States. The present Charter shall be subject to ratification or accession by Member States.
2. The instrument of ratification or accession to the present Charter shall be deposited with the Chairperson of the Commission.
3. The present Charter shall come into force thirty (30) days after the deposit with the Chairperson of the Commission of the instruments of ratification of fifteen (15) Member States.

### Article 31 : Amendment and Revision of the Charter

1. The present Charter may be amended or revised if any State Party makes a written request to that effect to the Chairperson of the Commission, provided that the proposed amendment is not submitted to the Assembly of the Union for consideration until all State Parties have been duly notified of it.
2. An amendment shall be approved by a simple majority of the States Parties. Such amendment shall come into force for each Member States that has ratified or acceded to it on the date of the deposit of its instrument of ratification.

**Adopted during the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Conference of Heads of States and Government held**

02<sup>th</sup> 2006 in Banjul, THE GAMBIA



# The Africa-Eu Strategic Partnership

A Joint Africa-EU Strategy

## I. Context, Shared Vision And Principles

### 1. CONTEXT

1. Africa and Europe are bound together by history, culture, geography, a common future, as well as by a community of values: the respect for human rights, freedom, equality, solidarity, justice, the rule of law and democracy as enshrined in the relevant international agreements and in the constitutive texts of our respective Unions.
2. Since the historic first Africa-EU Summit in Cairo in 2000, where our partnership was strengthened through the institutionalisation of our dialogue, considerable change has taken place on both continents. Democratisation and reform processes have been launched and are being deepened in both Africa and Europe and efforts have continued on both continents to address conflict and crisis situations. At the same time, integration processes on both continents have accelerated – on the one hand, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) has been transformed into the African Union (AU) with its socio-economic programme, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); on the other hand, the European Union (EU) has nearly doubled in size and is in the process of deepening the Union. The world has also changed: new international and global challenges have emerged, globalisation has accelerated and the world has become increasingly interdependent.
3. In response to these changes, cooperation between Africa and the EU has rapidly developed and diversified. Both sides have developed political strategies and policy documents to guide their cooperation, including the AU Constitutive Act and Strategic Framework 2004-2007 and the EU Africa Strategy of 2005. However, it is now time for these two neighbours, with their rich and complex history, to forge a new and stronger partnership that builds on their new identities and renewed institutions, capitalises on the lessons of the past and provides a solid framework for long-term, systematic and well integrated cooperation. There is now a need for a new phase in the Africa-EU relationship, a new strategic partnership and a

Joint Africa-EU Strategy as a political vision and roadmap for the future cooperation between the two continents in existing and new areas and arenas.

## 2. SHARED VISION

4. The purpose of this Joint Strategy is to take the Africa-EU relationship to a new, strategic level with a strengthened political partnership and enhanced cooperation at all levels. The partnership will be based on a Euro-African consensus on values, common interests and common strategic objectives. This partnership should strive to bridge the development divide between Africa and Europe through the strengthening of economic cooperation and the promotion of sustainable development in both continents, living side by side in peace, security, prosperity, solidarity and human dignity.
5. This Joint Strategy, which will provide an overarching long-term framework for Africa-EU relations, will be implemented through successive short-term Action Plans and enhanced political dialogue at all levels, resulting in concrete and measurable outcomes in all areas of the partnership.

## 3. PRINCIPLES

6. This partnership and its further development will be guided by the fundamental principles of the unity of Africa, the interdependence between Africa and Europe, ownership and joint responsibility, and respect for human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law, as well as the right to development. In the light of this new partnership, both sides also commit themselves to enhance the coherence and effectiveness of existing agreements, policies and instruments.
7. The partnership will furthermore be governed by strengthened political dialogue, co-management and co-responsibility in our bilateral cooperation and towards global issues, burden-sharing and mutual accountability, solidarity and mutual confidence, equality and justice, common and human security, respect for international law and agreements, gender equality and non-discrimination and, not least, a long-term approach.

## II. Objectives

8. The four main objectives of this long-term strategic partnership are:

i) To reinforce and elevate **the Africa-EU political partnership** to address issues of common concern. This includes strengthening of institutional ties and addressing common challenges, in particular peace and security, migration and development, and a clean environment. To this end, both sides will treat Africa as one and upgrade the Africa-EU political dialogue to enable a strong and sustainable continent-to-continent partnership, with the AU and the EU at the centre.

ii) To strengthen and promote peace, security, democratic governance and human rights, fundamental freedoms, gender equality, sustainable economic development, including industrialisation, and regional and continental integration in Africa, and to ensure that all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are met in all African countries by the year of 2015. .

iii) To jointly promote and sustain a system of effective multilateralism, with strong, representative and legitimate institutions, and the reform of the United Nations (UN) system and of other key international institutions, and to address global challenges and common concerns such as human rights, including children's rights and gender equality, fair trade, migration, HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other pandemics, climate change, energy security and sustainability, terrorism, the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and the illicit trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons, and knowledge-based society issues such as ICT, science, technology and innovation.

iv) To facilitate and promote a broad-based and wide-ranging people-centred partnership, Africa and the EU will empower non-state actors<sup>1</sup> and create conditions to enable them to play an active role in development, democracy building, conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction processes. Both sides will also promote holistic approaches to development processes, and make this Joint Strategy a permanent platform for information, participation and mobilisation of a broad spectrum of civil society actors in the EU, Africa and beyond. Ongoing dialogue with civil society, the private sector and local stakeholders on issues covered

<sup>1</sup>In the context of this Joint Strategy, the term non-state actors is understood as comprising : i) private sector, ii) economic and social partners including trade union organizations and iii) civil society in all its forms according to national characteristics.



by this Joint Strategy will be a key component to ensure its implementation.

### III. New Approaches

9. In order to meet these fundamental objectives, Africa and the EU will need to jointly address a number of key political challenges that are essential for the success of the new partnership, including:
- a) To move away from a traditional relationship and forge a real partnership characterised by equality and the pursuit of common objectives.
  - b) To build on positive experiences and lessons learned from our past relationship where successful mechanisms and instruments have been applied in specific policy areas and learn from shortcomings in other areas.
  - c) To promote more accurate images of each other, in place of those that are dominated by inherited negative stereotypes and that ignore the overwhelmingly positive developments on the two continents.
  - d) To encourage mutual understanding between the peoples and cultures of the two continents and promote better and more systematic use of our shared cultural and social heritage and our cultural diversity, as well as the economic wealth and opportunities that exist in Europe and Africa.
  - e) To recognise and fully support Africa's efforts and leadership to create conducive conditions for sustainable social and economic development and the effective implementation of partner-supported development programmes and to, in this context, underline the importance of strong African political commitment and responsibility in support of the objectives and priorities of the partnership.
  - f) To work together towards gradually adapting relevant policies and legal and financial frameworks, as well as relevant cooperation instruments and mechanisms, to the needs and objectives of the partnership, and to set up a framework that better addresses each others' concerns.
  - g) To ensure that bilateral relations, dialogue and cooperation between one or more European and African countries contribute to the achievement of the objectives set out in this Joint Strategy.
  - h) To integrate in our agenda common responses to global challenges and strengthen our dialogue and cooperation in the multilateral context.
  - i) To encourage the full integration of members of migrant communities/diasporas in their countries of residence, while at the same time promoting and facilitating links with their countries

of origin, with a view to providing concrete contributions to the development process.

- j) To bear in mind that we can only achieve our objectives if this strategic partnership is owned by all stakeholders, including civil society actors and local authorities, and if they are actively contributing to its implementation.

## IV. Strategies

### 1. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

10. The four main objectives of this long-term strategic partnership set the comprehensive framework within which specific strategies will have to be put in place in the following areas: (a) peace and security, (b) governance and human rights, (c) trade and regional integration and (d) key development issues.
11. In the implementation of this new partnership, the principle of policy coherence for development will be applied by both African and EU partners by identifying and promoting interactions and positive complementarities between sectoral policies and strategies, while ensuring that measures taken in one policy area do not undermine results in other areas.

### 2. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

12. In order to meet our objectives, Africa and the EU will need to take concrete action and to make significant progress in the following strategic inter-related priority areas:

#### a) PEACE AND SECURITY: PROMOTING A SAFER WORLD

13. Due to their history and experience, Africa and Europe understand the importance of peace and security as preconditions for political, economic and social development. On this basis, the two continents have laid the foundation for successful cooperation based on the need to promote holistic approaches to security, encompassing conflict prevention and long-term peace-building, conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction, linked to governance and sustainable development, with a view to addressing the root causes of conflicts.
14. However, there is today a clear determination by both Africa and the EU to bring this partnership to a new and strategic level, not only to foster peace and security in both continents, but also to address issues of common concern in the global arena.

## PROMOTION OF PEACE, SECURITY AND STABILITY IN AFRICA AND EUROPE

- 15.** At the core of the partnership between Africa and the EU is the need for a strengthened dialogue and institutional cooperation that not only addresses issues of peace and stability in Africa, but also challenges that Europe is facing. The two sides therefore undertake to share information, perspectives and lessons learned, as well as to consult on issues of common concern. Not only will this enhance the ability of both continents to respond timely and appropriately to peace and security threats, but it will also facilitate the coordination of efforts in relevant international fora, in particular the United Nations Security Council.
- 16.** Under the leadership of the AU, the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) is taking shape. African peace-making, peace-keeping and peace-building mechanisms are being strengthened at the continental, regional and national levels. Continentally or regionally sponsored peace agreements are the norm on the continent today, and most African countries now enjoy peace and stability. The EU has been a key partner for African countries and organisations to help create conditions for lasting peace and stability.
- 17.** In view of their expertise, financial and human resources and experience, the EU and its Member States are well placed to provide continued and increased support for the AU in its efforts to – in cooperation with the relevant African regional organisations – operationalise the APSA, including through long-term capacity building for the various structures provided therein, including the Continental Early Warning System, the Panel of the Wise, and the African Standby Force. The AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) will play a key coordinating role in this process. This support will, moreover, aim at facilitating the implementation of other relevant AU instruments such as the Policy on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development, the Declaration on the Border Program and relevant instruments on disarmament issues. In this context, efforts will be made to ensure coherence with wider international efforts.
- 18.** EU support to Africa has been and continues to be guided by the principle of African ownership. At the same time, valuable guidance for the cooperation will, as appropriate, be drawn from the EU Concept for Strengthening African Capabilities for the Prevention, Management and Resolution of Conflicts and relevant parts of the EU Joint Policy Framework on Security Sector Reform and the EU Concept on Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration, and from lessons learned from the implementation

of the African Peace Facility (APF), and from wider international experience. EU support will be provided through a number of different instruments, in particular the capacity building component of the APF, EU crisis management instruments as well as other EU programmes, such as Euro-RECAP, and through bilateral Member States' support.

19. Building capacity should go hand in hand with contributing to adequate, coherent and sustainable financing of the activities undertaken by the AU and the Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, both with respect to civilian crisis management and post-conflict reconstruction and development.
20. Sustainable, predictable and flexible funding for African-led peace support operations is another major challenge. The APF has made a substantial contribution and is a good example of how partner support can complement and reinforce African funding for African-led peace support operations, including from the AU Peace Fund. However, experience over the past years has clearly shown that additional financial support is urgently needed, together with sound and accountable management systems. The EU is committed to taking steps towards establishing a predictable and sustainable funding mechanism, building on the experience of the APF and EU Member States' bilateral contributions, as well as on the determination of Africa to raise additional resources from within the continent.
21. At the same time, the EU will back Africa's efforts to widen the funding base and mobilise additional resources from G8 and other international partners. Africa and the EU will also work together for the establishment, within the context of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, of a UN mechanism to provide predictable, flexible and sustainable funding for peace keeping operations undertaken by the AU, or under its authority, and with the consent of the UN Security Council.
22. Africa and the EU together commit themselves to support and promote the role of civil society and non-state actors in underpinning a comprehensive approach, emphasising the importance of conflict sensitivity. The two sides also commit themselves to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 on Women in Peace and Security and 1612 on Children in Armed Conflicts.

#### **COMMON AND GLOBAL PEACE AND SECURITY CHALLENGES**

23. While today's global environment has opened up new opportunities to enhance international peace and security, it has also come with new security challenges, which in a world of increasing interdependence and close links between the internal and external

aspects of security, only can be addressed through concerted international action, including in a UN context. Issues relating to transnational organised crime, international terrorism, mercenary activities, and human and drugs trafficking, as well as the illicit trade in natural resources, which are a major factor in triggering and spreading conflicts and undermining state structures, are of particular concern.

- 24.** It is also recognised that the illicit proliferation, accumulation and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their ammunition, explosive remnants of war and the continued use of anti-personnel landmines, are all major common concerns, as is the issue of the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs). Africa and the EU will work together on all these issues, and seek to promote, as appropriate, the adoption of multilateral, regional and national instruments, and support the implementation of commitments made, including in the context of UN Security Council Resolutions. This cooperation, which will include matters relating to counter-terrorism, will take place through the exchange of information, law enforcement and institutional capacity building and judicial cooperation.
- 25.** Furthermore, over the past years a number of new global, and human security challenges have emerged, relating to issues such as climate change, environmental degradation, water management, toxic waste deposits and pandemics. There is a need for Africa and the EU to deepen their knowledge of the security challenges involved and jointly identify responses that could be formulated towards, and together with, the larger international community.
- 26.** Looking beyond Africa and the EU, the two sides will also coordinate their actions and bring their influence to bear in the search for lasting solutions to crises and conflicts in other parts of the world that undermine international peace and security, in particular in the Middle East region.

## **b) GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS: UPHOLDING OUR VALUES AND PRINCIPLES**

### **COMMON AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS CHALLENGE**

- 27.** The promotion of democratic governance and human rights constitutes a central feature of the Africa-EU dialogue and partnership. The two continents will join efforts towards the enhancement of the effectiveness of the multilateral system and the

promotion of the values of democracy, rule of law and human rights. In this regard, the Africa-EU strategic partnership will facilitate an open, intensive and comprehensive dialogue on all aspects and concepts of governance, including human rights, childrens' rights, gender equality, democratic principles, the rule of law, local governance, the management of natural resources, the transparent and accountable management of public funds, institutional development and reform, human security, security sector reform, the fight against corruption, corporate social responsibility, and institution building and development. This dialogue should help both parties to define the issues at stake, agree on common positions on issues of common concern and jointly undertake specific initiatives and actions.

**28.** In the context of situations of conflict, crisis, instability, severe democratic deficit, and/or institutional weakness, and on the basis of discussions in various international fora, Africa and the EU will also hold a dialogue on the concept of "situations of fragility" aimed at reaching a common understanding and agreeing on steps that could be taken.

**29.** With regard to human rights, Africa and the EU will work together to protect and promote the human rights of all people in Africa and Europe, including through enhanced dialogue between relevant institutions from both continents, such as the European Court of Human Rights of the Council of Europe, the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and African and European national human rights institutions.

**30.** Similarly, Africa and the EU will also work together on a global level and international fora, including in the UN Human Rights Council, for the promotion and protection of human rights and international humanitarian law and for the effective implementation of international and regional human rights instruments. Both sides also commit themselves to fight impunity in all its forms. The most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole, especially crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide, should not go unpunished and their prosecution should be ensured by measures at both domestic and international level. In this context, the partners agree that the establishment and the effective functioning of the International Criminal Court constitute an important development for peace and international justice.

**31.** Africa and the EU stress the importance of having a better knowledge of African cultural goods and call for the exchange of information between EU and African countries on existing African

cultural goods in the EU and Africa. Africa and the EU will continue to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trade in cultural goods, and facilitate and support the return of illegally acquired cultural goods to their countries of origin, as set out in the relevant UNESCO and UNIDROIT conventions and other commonly agreed legal instruments. Africa and the EU will also cooperate through the exchange of best practices and lessons learned, by raising public awareness and by providing capacity building in, and technical assistance to, African countries.

### **COOPERATION BETWEEN AFRICA AND THE EU ON DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE**

- 32.** The AU is putting into place a new pan-African governance architecture and Africa is developing its public and private institutional capacity at all levels – national, regional and continental. In this context, the EU is committed to supporting institutional development, knowledge-sharing and capacity-building. EU support, based on dialogue and incentives, will build on the approach followed to integrate governance in the EDF programming, under the Governance Initiative, under which additional funding is provided to partner countries committed to engaging in reforms. EU support provided will apply the principle of African and local ownership and should follow African agendas.
- 33.** Two particularly promising cases of Africa-owned governance reform programmes and democracy-building efforts are the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. To support the APRM process and the implementation of the Charter, and more broadly the pan-African governance architecture, the EU will set up an instrument that takes into account the positive experience with the African Peace Facility and which combines strong African ownership of programme design and implementation with provisions for strategic and political EU-level involvement. Specific support and cooperation are foreseen with the African Court for Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights, the Pan-African Parliament and the AU Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC).
- 34.** Africa and the EU will together support the strengthening of the rule of law in Africa, through enhanced support for national Human Rights Commissions, national Parliaments and independent electoral commissions, as well as civil society organisations.
- 35.** The AU and EU will also work together to support democratic elections in accordance with international and regional standards, including the AU standards for elections, through election assistance and electoral observation. To that end they will strive



to reinforce the role of the AU, the regional organisations and of civil society in election observation in line with the UN-endorsed Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation of 2005 and the Durban Declaration on the Principles Guiding Democratic Elections in Africa.

- 36.** Africa and the EU will enhance cooperation in the context of international initiatives to counter the illicit trade and to promote the transparent and equitable management of natural resources, such as the Kimberley certification process, the Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) and the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI). Africa and the EU will also, together, address issues relating to the fight against corruption, bribery, counterfeiting, money-laundering, tax-fraud, as well as other aspects of economic governance. In this context, both sides will take measures to facilitate the investigation and return of illegally acquired assets, including funds, to their countries of origin.
- 37.** On all these issues, Africa and the EU recognise that civil society, the media and democratic institutions have important roles to play in ensuring transparency and accountability.

**c) TRADE AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION: RAISING POTENTIAL AND USING OPPORTUNITIES**

- 38.** The improvement of economic governance and the investment climate are essential elements to build Africa's economic strength and allow Africa to move away from continuous donor support and find its place in global markets. In this regard, the development of domestic markets and regional integration are key in creating larger and more integrated markets that, in conjunction with enhanced regulatory convergence, will help to attract investment, increase productive capacities and therefore foster sustainable economic growth and development.
- 39.** One of the priorities of the Africa-EU partnership will be to help Africa improve its productive capacities, move up the value-added scale and become less dependent on raw materials and simple processed products, which in the long term is the best way to avoid a deterioration of the terms of trade and participate in, and benefit from, the global economy. Africa and the EU will also, together with other international partners, work to promote fair trade. In order to achieve this, the key goals which will be pursued by Africa-EU cooperation on trade and regional integration will be: **(i)** private sector development, supported by foreign investments, to strengthen the supply side of African economies; **(ii)** the development and strengthening of physical infrastructure networks and

related services, which are needed for the movement of persons, goods, information; and (iii) trade integration, which is essential to increase both South-South and North-South trade flows.

### PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

- 40.** The promotion of an investment and business friendly environment is a core prerequisite for the development of the private sector, within the framework of a stable political environment and governance-related reform. These efforts should be underpinned by appropriate African economic growth strategies aiming at maintaining macroeconomic stability, promoting regulatory reform and harmonisation, protecting intellectual property rights and standards, promoting investment codes, and establishing credible laws and guarantee systems. In this context, it will also be necessary to address key investment disincentives such as fraud, corruption, money laundering and organised crime.
- 41.** Cooperation between Africa and the EU in this field will aim to promote stable, efficient and harmonised legal frameworks for business, free of unnecessary administrative red tape, as well as to promote Corporate Social Responsibility. Both sides will cooperate on technology development and transfer, quality infrastructure and skills development in support of the industrialisation process. It will also aim at enhancing appropriate business support services, and facilitate better access to credit, especially for converting activities from the informal to formal sectors, which is also a key contribution to enabling more women to participate in the formal economy and to facilitating investment and business activities by members of diasporas.
- 42.** The partnership will, furthermore, contribute to the facilitation and strengthening of the dialogue between, and within, governments and with the private sector on both continents via appropriate continental and regional networks. In this regard, the EU-Africa Business Forum will play a key role in bringing together entrepreneurs and public and private investors from both Europe and Africa in order to discuss ways of improving the investment and business climate and to raise the profile of doing business in Africa.

### TRADE AND INTEGRATION

- 43.** In line with the Abuja Treaty, establishing the African Economic Community, trade and integration are recognised as essential components of the wider process of regional integration and development, which shall be duly promoted by the present partnership. Regional Economic Communities will play an essential

role as building blocks of the continental integration process. In order to do so, Africa and the EU will work together to make trade rules and regimes more coherent and harmonised. This will require the gradual harmonisation of trade, customs and industrial policies, laws, regulations and procedures. Africa and the EU will cooperate to put in place programmes and mechanisms to develop norms, standards and quality control at regional and pan-African levels with reference to international standards.

**44.** One key area will be regulations and technical standards, including sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures. It is widely recognised that meeting international SPS standards is a key component for advancing the competitiveness and market access of African agriculture and food processing industry. Improving African standards will therefore enable greater access to international markets, the promotion of South-South trade and the diminution of non-tariff barriers to trade. Both sides will continue to promote market access for African goods and services to international markets, in particular the EU market. Another key area will be enhancing pharmaceutical production capacities in accordance with international rules on good manufacturing practices (GMPs) and efficient regulatory procedures, including the control of counterfeit medicines and of other products, while promoting access to affordable essential generic medicines, vaccines and commodities for major prevailing diseases and epidemics. In this regard, the capacity of African countries to make full use of flexibilities in TRIPs, in line with the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa, will be developed. A third key area will be preferential market access for environmentally friendly technologies and products.

**45.** Africa-EU cooperation will be underpinned by stronger bilateral development-oriented trading relationships between Africa and the EU: (i) through the implementation of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with African EPA regions (West Africa, Central Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa and the Southern African grouping), which involve the RECs and other African organizations<sup>2</sup>, and the implementation of the EU-Mediterranean Free Trade Agreement with the countries of North Africa, (ii) by supporting African business in its efforts to meet EU norms and standards and to develop its productive capacity, and (iii) by cooperating in developing export strategies and business-to-business relations. The EPA-agreements, as instruments for development, are to be implemented at the sub-regional level, however, the AU-EU dialogue is

<sup>2</sup>The regional economic communities (RECs) and other organisations involved in the EPA negotiations are: ECOWAS, UEMOA, ECCAS, CEMAC, COMESA, SADC, SACU, EAS, EAC and IOC.

relevant to the overall process of regional integration and interface with developing Regional Economic Communities. Both sides stress the need for the EPA process to be supportive of Africa's regional and continental integration agenda on the basis of the Abuja Treaty.

- 46.** The above efforts, in particular the EPA implementation process, as well as more general efforts to better integrate into the rules-based world trading system and to more effectively use trade in the promotion of growth and the eradication of poverty, will be supported by the Community (EDF and other instruments) and EU Member States in accordance with the EU Aid for Trade Strategy, as well as by contributions from other development actors. In coherence with the efforts to further integrate at sub-regional level, efforts to better integrate at continental level will also be supported.
- 47.** At the global level, Africa and the EU will seek to promote global economic governance, and sustain Africa's efforts to integrate into the world economy. To achieve this, the coordination of African and EU positions in international fora will be promoted. Africa and the EU will seek to join efforts to conclude the Doha Development Agenda as soon as possible. This could involve, in particular, seeking common ground to address key issues for development, such as reductions in trade distorting subsidies, greater access to the markets of all WTO members, reductions in tariff peaks, better anti-dumping rules, as well as the implementation of reforms in view of facilitating trade and ensuring the security of the supply chain. In this context, Africa and the EU will cooperate to build technical and institutional capacity for negotiations in trade and related areas, such as quality and food safety, industrial goods, TBT/SPS and commodities issues in order to promote African trade and safeguard the health and rights of consumers.
- 48.** Finally, Africa and the EU will strengthen their cooperation in the field of statistics with the aim of helping policy makers and other users of statistics and enhancing ongoing efforts in the coordination and harmonisation of statistics in Africa within the framework of the African Charter for Statistics.

#### **d) KEY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:**

##### **ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE MDGS**

- 49.** For the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to be achieved, African countries need to sustain economic growth and equitable social development, and both Africa and the EU have to boost their investments, better focus their policies and deliver on the

promises made. Mid-way between 2000 and 2015, supporting Africa's efforts to achieve the MDGs remains the key challenge for the EU's external and development cooperation policy vis-à-vis the continent. In this regard, efforts should focus on making a key contribution to the achievement of the 8 MDGs on (1) poverty and hunger, (2) universal primary education, (3) gender equality and empowerment of women, (4) child mortality, (5) maternal health, (6) HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, (7) environmental sustainability, and (8) the development of a partnership for development.

### DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

**50.** In order to achieve the objectives set out in the present Joint Strategy, partners should urgently work on more predictable and less volatile aid, focusing on results. The EU therefore reaffirms its determination to reach the targets agreed in the context of the Monterrey consensus in May 2005 to increasing ODA volume to individually achieve 0.51% ODA/GNI for those Member States which joined the EU before 2002; to strive to achieve 0.17% for those Member States which joined the EU after 2002 within their respective budget allocation processes, and collectively achieve 0.56% ODA/GNI by 2010 as an intermediate step towards achieving the UN target of 0.7% by 2015. By 2010, attaining the 0.56% ODA/GNI should correspond to at least an additional 220 billion in ODA per year, and no less than 50% of this increase will benefit the African continent. The EU will respect and implement these commitments and will take appropriate measures to guarantee a timely delivery of aid commitments towards Africa. Partners will also make further efforts to keep debt at sustainable levels and, where debt becomes unsustainable, consider debt cancellation in the framework of existing initiatives and fora.

**51.** Africa and the EU will also strengthen their cooperation in the implementation of the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness. They will further promote alignment and harmonisation of development aid instruments, increase the use of general and sectoral budget support where circumstances permit, and cooperate closely to implement the EU's commitments to promote complementarity and division of labour.

**52.** The predictability of development aid should be promoted and the EU will work toward a limitation of conditionalities and further move towards result-oriented aid, with a clear link with MDG indicators and performance. In this context, Africa and the EU will also improve and expand their cooperation in the field of statistics so that policies and decisions are made on the basis of clear evidence.

- 53.** Moreover, the two sides fully recognise that development cooperation alone is not enough to achieve these objectives and that non-aid policies on both sides need to be better geared towards attaining the MDGs, including by enhancing Policy Coherence for Development (PCD). To this end, the EU and the AU will discuss how the coherence between policies and initiatives with development objectives could be enhanced, on the basis of stronger commitments on both sides.
- 54.** In order to ensure coherence and complementarity with the work of other international actors, including emerging partners, Africa and the EU recognise the need to broaden their cooperation with third partners through enhanced tripartite dialogue. Similarly, both parties recognise the importance of triangular cooperation for the development of the two continents<sup>5</sup>.

### HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- 55.** Employment issues, notably social protection, the shortage of employment opportunities and the promotion of decent work in Africa, will be jointly addressed, with priority being given to creating productive jobs in the formal economy, improving poor living and working conditions in line with the UN decent work agenda and integrating the informal economy into the formal. Investments in private sector development will be promoted, looking in particular to youth and women. The service sector will be further developed as this is where women and youth are mostly involved. Africa and the EU will make technology work for employment, and will ensure that infrastructure works to create jobs for Africans, both skilled and unskilled. In addition, attention will be paid to the creation of jobs through micro-finance schemes. As generally disadvantaged groups often benefit substantially from such microfinance schemes they should be actively pursued.
- 56.** Africa and the EU will promote children's rights as well as the empowerment of Europe's and Africa's youth. Special efforts will be made to assist youth and children in (post-) conflict situations. All these measures will be supported by predictable long-term financing.

<sup>5</sup> In the context of this Joint Strategy, triangular cooperation refers to the implementation of a project for the development of an African country with the technical involvement of another African country and with financial and/or other input from the EU side, or vice versa.



- 57.** Moreover, partners insist on the urgent need to strengthen not only basic education but entire education systems, at all levels. Africa and the EU will together work towards ensuring long-term predictable funding for national education plans to help ensure quality education for all and that all girls and boys attend and complete school, including through the Education for All Fast Track Initiative and the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa. Particular attention will be given to the inclusion of hard-to-reach children and children and youth with disabilities.
- 58.** Training and development of teachers is a priority at all levels of education. Africa and the EU will therefore support the recruitment, retention and training of teaching staff, as well as a general valorisation of the teaching profession. A further priority is to ensure that 'there are jobs behind the education' and an increased responsiveness of training to the needs of the economic sectors. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and skills development with the involvement of the productive sectors will also be promoted.
- 59.** Furthermore, building upon the 2007 Addis Ababa Declaration on Science Technology and Scientific Research for Development, Africa and the EU shall strengthen their cooperation in these areas. In this context, attention will also be paid to space-based technology, applications and sciences.
- 60.** In the field of health, integrated strategies, including the strengthening of national health systems at all levels, will be promoted by Africa and the EU, based on adequate financing, human resources and commodities. To reinforce health system capacity, partners will also jointly address both the migration of health workers, which is a crisis in some African countries, and the creation or reinforcement of social protection systems. Efforts will be made in line with the Africa Health Strategy, the EU Project on Human Resources for Health, the Abuja commitment (15% financing for health) and the European Programme for Action to Tackle the Shortage of Health Workers in Developing Countries. Efforts to scale up towards universal access to basic health services, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis Malaria prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010, and cooperation on other pandemics as well as on issues relating to meningitis, will be intensified, with special focus on women, children and adolescents, older and disabled persons as well as members of vulnerable groups.
- 61.** The involvement of the private sector in health sector development and financing, including through public-private partnerships, should be encouraged and the production and access to generic



medicines should be enhanced. Africa and the EU will, in addition, promote further research, particularly for vaccines and new medicines for both major and neglected diseases, and on issues relating to water-borne diseases, as well as on the clinical effectiveness of traditional medicine. Partners will also work towards effective implementation of international health agreements and regulations. Other issues of common interest, such as the abuse of narcotic drugs and the preparedness and responses for emergencies, should be addressed. Special attention will be given to fighting malnutrition in Africa, in line with the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy.

- 62.** Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) will be promoted with the aim of achieving universal access to reproductive health by 2015 and to reduce newborn, infant and maternal morbidity and mortality, as set out by the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the Maputo Plan of Action, in the context of the Action Plans of this Joint Strategy.

### **GENDER EQUALITY**

- 63.** Africa and the EU will also strengthen the inter-institutional fabric of their administrations to mainstream gender equality in all strategies, policies, programmes and actions. They will address the entire range of women's rights and strengthen their efforts to eliminate illiteracy and to ensure equal access of girls to education, to fight the feminisation of poverty, to promote women in decision-making positions and peace processes, and fight sexual and gender based violence against women and early forced marriage, and work towards the abandonment of female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C) and other harmful traditional practices, as set out in the Beijing Platform for Action and the AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

- 64.** Africa and the EU have a clear common interest to address environmental sustainability and climate change. Environmental degradation and climate change undermine sustainable development and represent threats to the achievement of the MDGs. Climate change is affecting all countries, but will be most immediately and severely felt in the poorest and most vulnerable countries, which do not have the means and resources to adapt to the changes in their natural environment. Africa will be particularly hit in terms of food security, water management and extreme weather phenomena such as drought, floods and cyclones.

- 65.** Africa-EU cooperation in this field will link positively with economic growth, job creation, social stability, and the building of capacities for adaptation to, and mitigation of, negative effects of climate change. It will address interrelated areas such as food security, sustainable agriculture and land management and will cover a vast number of interrelated areas and issues such as land degradation, desertification, the preservation of biodiversity, bio-safety issues including GMOs, prevention of toxic waste dumping, environmentally sound waste management, sustainable use and management of natural resources including forest, fish stocks and integrated water management, weather observation and early warning systems to improve disaster risk management.
- 66.** Africa and the EU will also work together in the global arena and international fora to effectively respond and adapt to climate change and other global environmental challenges. In this context, the compliance with UN and other international agreements is of key importance and – following the December 2007 Bali conference – Africa and the EU will work together for an ambitious post-2012 climate framework. The EU will furthermore support Africa's capacity building efforts in the sustainable management of natural resources, including on weather observation and early warning systems, as well as helping to tackle illegal logging and associated trade. In this context, Africa and the EU should strengthen existing cooperation mechanisms and programmes relating to the use of space technologies and space-based systems.
- 67.** At the global level, the EU will promote a better geographical distribution of Clean Development Mechanism projects, helping Africa profit from the global carbon market.

### **MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

- 68.** Migration and mobility are interwoven with the history of human development and should be treated as largely positive phenomena. Acknowledging this, Africa and the EU will pursue and implement policies and programmes that address all relevant dimensions of migration, including circular migration. These efforts will aim to promote and better manage legal migration and mobility with a view to supporting the socio-economic development of both countries of origin and countries of destination.
- 69.** Africa and the EU will work to deepen their frank and constructive dialogue in taking forward the implementation of the Declaration adopted in November 2006 at the Tripoli EU-Africa Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development, and ongoing regional processes, which provide a comprehensive agenda for common action in the area of migration and development. Partners will foster

the linkages between migration and development, maximise the development impact of remittances, facilitate the involvement of diasporas/migrant communities in development processes, promote the protection of the human rights of migrants, assist and protect asylum seekers and refugees and help countries of origin, transit and destination in Africa build capacity to better manage migration.

**70.** Africa and the EU will also jointly address the down-sides of migration. This includes jointly combating illegal migration, where cooperation needs to be stepped up, including through cooperation on return and readmission of migrants in the context of the Tripoli Declaration and relevant international agreements, as well as on border control and trafficking in human beings. In this regard, they will work actively to ensure the implementation of the EU-Africa Plan of Action on Trafficking in Human Beings, especially Women and Children. Partners will also work to promote respect for the principles and provisions of the OAU Convention governing the specific aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa and the Geneva Convention on Refugees. Africa and the EU will pay particular attention to brain drain in sensitive sectors like health and education.

**71.** Both sides commit themselves to ensure that adequate financial resources are made available for the effective implementation of the measures outlined in the Tripoli Declaration.

### **AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY**

**72.** In the area of agriculture, Africa and the EU will promote policy coherence for development, food security, food safety and food quality; strengthen farmer organisations and inter-professional associations; improve policy and strategy development processes; increase domestic and foreign investment; promote diversification in rural areas; strengthen livestock disease surveillance and control systems, including through fighting against the avian flu; promote risk management approaches and the use of early-warning systems; strengthen capacity vis-à-vis regional and international trade and SPS standards, promote institutional reforms, strengthen agricultural research for development and make the best use of the opportunities opened up by advances in biotechnology.

**73.** A new EU-AU partnership on agricultural development will support Africa's agricultural agenda, as set out in the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP). This includes putting emphasis on improved governance of agriculture and supporting capacity-building on the part of African

public and private organisations involved in agriculture, particularly at regional and continental levels. It also includes a strong engagement in Africa's agricultural research for development agenda as coordinated by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA).

**74.** African fisheries resources, both coastal and inland, represent vital natural capital and a potential source of wealth able to contribute substantially and sustainably to economic growth and poverty reduction. As with agriculture, Africa and the EU will improve policy coherence for development, particularly related to fisheries access arrangements, trade and controlling illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, notably through the Fisheries Partnership Agreements (FPAs). Africa and the EU will also collaborate in creating an institutional and governance environment to promote conservation and sustainable and optimal use of this valuable resource.

### INFRASTRUCTURE

**75.** The promotion of interconnectivity of African infrastructure at all levels in line with AU/NEPAD priorities will be further advanced. In doing so, the two sides will make use and build upon the framework offered by the 2006 EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership and Trust Fund as well as the Pan-African Infrastructure Development Fund which set out the strategy for securing interconnectivity across the continent and its different regions and for tackling the issue of delivery of infrastructure services. In line with the priorities identified through the Infrastructure Partnership, the following goals shall be pursued:

**76.** As regards transport, Africa and the EU will aim at increasing interconnectivity by investing in and improving infrastructure along the Trans-African road transport corridors and associated regional road and rail networks. Partners shall also focus on enhancing port efficiency, and supporting measures for improving air and maritime safety and security. By supporting the removal of non-physical barriers to the free movement of goods, services and people through more rigorous implementation of regional protocols the Partnership shall also aim at improving transport services.

**77.** As regards water, Africa and the EU acknowledge that in order for water to contribute fully to national development and local livelihoods, investment in regional hydraulic infrastructure needs to be increased.

**78.** As regards energy, the two sides recognise that increased regional and continental interconnectivity is necessary for enhancing the reliability and efficiency of energy systems. Partners will thus aim

at improving energy infrastructure, in particular for electricity interconnections, agreements on joint standards and regulation procedures, as well as removing non-physical barriers for exchange of energy across borders.

### WATER AND SANITATION

**79.** Water resource management and access to safe water and basic sanitation are crucial both for economic growth and poverty reduction and the achievement of the MDGs. Africa and the EU will therefore work together to further develop the existing EU-Africa Partnership on Water Affairs and Sanitation with the overall objective to meet basic water and sanitation needs and contribute to improved water resource management at local, river basin and catchment, national and trans-boundary level.

**80.** In addition, Africa and the EU will reinforce their joint efforts to address the challenges of water security and climate change, sustainable access to safe affordable water supplies, hygiene education and sanitation. In this context, Africa and the EU will aim at mobilising increased investments for hydraulic infrastructure in Africa. Furthermore, they will promote the participation of other international partners in the dialogue on the sustainable use of Africa's water resources.

### ENERGY

**81.** The two sides recognise that the international energy challenges have created a need for Africa and the EU to give an even stronger focus to sustainable energy in their mutual relations. Both sides will therefore aim at strengthening cooperation and solidarity in the sustainable management of their energy resources and at continuing to promote access to energy, energy security and safety, and regional cooperation.

**82.** To this end, the partners have agreed to establish the Africa-EU Energy Partnership, which will address the joint challenges of energy security and diversification of supply, access to affordable, clean and efficient energy services, new and renewable energy resources and climate change. Partners will furthermore aim at building capacity, at mobilising increased investments for energy infrastructure in Africa, including through the existing EU Energy Facility and other financial instruments, and at including emerging donors in the dialogue on sustainable energy sector development in Africa.

**83.** Africa and the EU will also explore ways and means to launch a dialogue on the peaceful use of nuclear energy, within the framework of relevant International Atomic Energy Agency

(IAEA) and Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) provisions and in line with international safety standards and rules.

### **DEVELOPMENT OF KNOWLEDGE-BASED SOCIETIES**

**84.** Africa and the EU will strengthen their cooperation in building knowledge-based societies and economies. Both sides recognise that the development of S&T and innovation is one of the essential engines of socio-economic growth and sustainable development in Africa; that competitiveness in the global economy is increasingly dependent on knowledge and innovative ways of applying modern technology, especially Information and Communication Technology (ICT); and that meeting the MDGs requires a special global effort to build scientific and technological capacities in Africa. Thus partnerships and investments advancing access to ICT infrastructure, access to quality education, and the development of science and technology and innovation systems in Africa are crucial for attaining all other development goals.

**85.** Africa and the EU will strengthen their cooperation and support to bridge the digital divide and promote the development of an inclusive Knowledge Economy, including through the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit on Information Society and relevant AU/NEPAD programmes.

**86.** More specifically, in the area of ICT, Africa and the EU will aim at bridging the digital divide that limits access to modern telephony and internet services. It will address the harmonisation of policy and regulatory frameworks and investment in broadband infrastructure and support non-commercial e-services.

**87.** In parallel, similar efforts will be made to address the scientific divide and increase Africa's research capacities. Inadequate technical capacity of Africa will be upgraded through the establishment of specialised networks in regions and sub-regions, which need to focus on identified priorities so as to underpin economic growth and sustainable development of the African continent. In this respect, Africa and the EU will promote the strengthening of collaborative links between African regional and sub-regional partnerships and European partners, in order to contribute to the sustainability of established centres and networks of excellence.

### **CULTURAL COOPERATION**

**88.** A stronger political partnership between Africa and the EU should be underpinned by an equally strong partnership on cultural cooperation. All expressions of culture, including arts, multilingualism and sports, should be taken into account.

**89.** Africa and the EU will therefore engage in an effective dialogue and cooperation on culture, promote cultural exchanges and twinning arrangements, and support capacity building and technical assistance on the protection and preservation of, and access to, cultural goods and sites in Europe and Africa. These efforts will strengthen the safeguarding of African World Heritage sites, as well as the diversity of cultural expressions within the framework of relevant UNESCO conventions. In this context, the two sides will launch an inventory of ongoing cooperation on cultural goods issues with a view to identify potential areas of further cooperation. Furthermore, Africa and the EU will also – in the context of their development cooperation – fully take into account local culture and contribute to increase the access of people to culture and to means of cultural expression.

### COMMUNICATION

**90.** Africa and the EU recognise the need to better communicate with each other and to better promote the social and cultural values of the European and African peoples.

**91.** In this regard, partners will also work towards the promotion of more accurate images of each other, and fight stereotypes, xenophobia and racism, through enhanced exchanges and contacts of non-state actors, including trade unions, professional associations, the private sector, media, schools, universities, research and cultural institutions, and sport clubs and associations, including through support for twinning arrangements between civil society organisations.

## V. Institutional Architecture and Implementation

### 1. INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE AND ACTORS

**92.** Africa and the EU will implement their new strategic partnership through an institutional architecture, which allows and promotes intensive exchange and dialogue on all issues of common concern.

**93.** The partnership will involve a large number of institutional and non-institutional actors in Africa and the EU at continental, regional, national and local levels, with a central role of the AU and the EU. Partners will therefore place greater value on the role of their continental organisations in facilitating this partnership and task them to work closely together, including through more regular dialogue between corresponding AU and



EU institutions, in the preparation and follow-up of decisions and meetings. The frequency of these meetings at political level, namely, of senior officials, Ministers and Heads of State and Government, will have to be enhanced in order to take forward the objectives of the Joint Strategy.

- 94.** It should be noted that this strategic partnership, and the effective implementation of the policies and actions outlined in the Joint Strategy, are also the shared responsibility of all African and EU states.

### **REGULAR AFRICA-EU SUMMITS**

- 95.** In the future, starting from the Lisbon Summit, meetings of the Heads of State and Government will be organised every three years, alternately in Africa and the EU. These Summits will reflect the importance which the two sides attach to their relationship, take stock of progress made in the implementation of commitments made and give political guidance for further work, including through the approval of Action Plans. These Summits should be prepared at ministerial level.

- 96.** The political momentum and visibility of the new partnership will also require political engagement and commitment of the leaders of Africa and the EU in the period between the Summits. To this end, the Presidents of the EU Council and the AU, of the European and the Pan-African Parliament and of the European and AU Commissions, will – in the period between Summits and on a regular basis – meet their institutional counterparts, alternately in Africa and the EU, to review progress and provide political guidance to the partnership.

### **THE AU AND EU: DIFFERENT LEVELS OF INTERACTION**

- 97.** In this context, partners recognise a need for a more defined division of roles and responsibilities between the pan-African, sub-regional, national and local levels and between the different actors on the EU side, as well as for coherence and complementarity with other international actors.

- 98.** The African Union has emerged as a natural interlocutor for the EU on continental issues and as the most important institutional partner for the EU. Therefore, the institutional architecture promoted by the Joint Strategy will, on the African side, be centered on the AU. This approach requires strong institutions that invest particularly in their capacity to act effectively and interact with each other. The EU will therefore allocate the necessary resources and adapt its organisational structures. The opening of an EU Delegation to the AU in Addis Ababa will be an important step in that



direction. The AU will also further strengthen its representation in Brussels. Beyond that, the EU will continue to assist the AU in its ongoing institutional transformation process and also support the strengthening of the AU's institutional ability to interact with the EU and other international partners.

**99.** One particular challenge is to simplify the institutional framework for regional integration and its articulation with the EPA-related groupings. Regional Economic Communities (RECs) are important for the continental economic and political integration agenda and should continue to and AU will aim at integrating the RECs and the Sub-Regional Organisations (SROs) in the present institutional architecture and at minimizing overlap between, and conflicting mandates of, the entities concerned. The issue of the configuration of the EPA-related groupings is of particular importance in this context.

#### **AFRICA-EU TROIKAS**

**100.** In the period between the Summits, the dialogue between Africa and the EU should be maintained through regular meetings of Senior Officials and Ministers. In order to ensure an effective and balanced representation of both Unions, these meetings will continue to be held in Troika format, whereby each side is represented by a smaller number of representatives who are mandated to speak on behalf of Africa and the EU respectively. On the EU side, the Troika consists of the current and incoming EU Presidency, the European Commission and the EU Council Secretariat, while on the African side the Troika consists of the current and outgoing Presidencies of the AU and the AU Commission, expanded to include chef de file countries at the expert and senior official levels.

**101.** The biannual Africa-EU Ministerial troika meeting will play a central role in the review and monitoring of the implementation of the Joint Strategy and its successive Action Plans.

**102.** Africa and the EU will continue to hold biannual Africa-EU troika meetings between Foreign Ministers, alternately in Africa and the EU, and will also, as necessary, strengthen their dialogue through additional sectoral Ministerial meetings.

#### **COMMISSION-TO-COMMISSION DIALOGUE AND JOINT EU-AU TASK FORCE**

**103.** The two Commissions will play a central role as the driving forces behind the partnership. They will continue and further develop their cooperation, together with the EU Council Secretariat. The existing Joint EU-AU Task Force will be strengthened

to facilitate permanent working level dialogue, interaction and joint projects between the different institutions and will continue to hold regular meetings to move forward the agenda of the strategic partnership. The Colleges of Commissioners of the European and AU Commissions will meet on an annual basis to provide political leadership and impetus to the work of the Joint EU-AU Task Force.

#### **PARLIAMENTS AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVE INSTITUTIONS**

**104.** This institutional architecture will also strengthen the formal structure of the dialogue between the institutions that represent the people of the two continents, the European Parliament, the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) and the AU Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC). The PAP and the ECOSOCC – both part of the AU institutional architecture – are promising and legitimate voices for democratic governance in Africa and deserves the support of all actors in the Africa-EU partnership.

**105.** Cooperation between the socio-economic partners at both sides will also be enhanced, notably through the dialogue between the EU Economic and Social Committees (EESC) and the AU ECOSOCC. These dialogues will complement and/or feed into the institutional EU-AU troika dialogue. Consideration will also be given to setting up mechanisms for exchanges between stakeholders on the EU side to achieve maximum coordination, coherence and consistency of EU policies and approaches.

#### **CIVIL SOCIETY**

**106.** Partners furthermore recognise that the Joint Strategy should be co-owned by European and African non-institutional actors and that these actors can play an important role in taking forward the objectives of the partnership.

**107.** With a view to a people-centred partnership, an appropriate and prominent place needs to be defined in the institutional partnership for civil society and other non-state actors. Africa and the EU will therefore further promote the development of a vibrant and independent civil society and of a systematic dialogue between it and public authorities at all levels.

**108.** In addition, both sides will make effective communication with non-institutional actors a priority and strengthen their capacity to disseminate information, collect and make use of ideas and proposals from civil society partners, and encourage the active involvement of non-institutional actors in the implementation and monitoring of the Joint Strategy and its Action Plans. EU and AU Member States, and sub-regional organisations and institutions, will play a key role in this work.

**109.** To facilitate these people-to-people contacts, Africa and the EU will promote and expand twinning arrangements in relevant sectors. To make these arrangements work, both sides will work towards facilitation of entry procedures – including visa requirements – for people participating in these schemes.

**110.** The Joint Strategy should remain a permanent platform for continued dialogue with stakeholders in Africa and the EU in the years ahead. Members of Parliament, civil society organisations and European and African research institutes and think tanks will participate in dialogue mechanisms and initiatives and play a key role in monitoring the implementation of African, European and joint policies and commitments outlined in the Joint Strategy.

## 2. IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP MECHANISMS

### ACTION PLANS

**111.** The Joint Strategy, which provides an overarching long-term policy framework for Africa-EU relations, will be implemented through successive Action Plans which will build on the operational part of this Joint Strategy and cover proposed priority actions for three years. The first Action Plan will be adopted in Lisbon, covering the period up to the next Summit. These Action Plans will identify the main political priorities, as well as the policy commitments, programmes and actions that will be needed to achieve them. The Action Plans will allow Heads of State and Government to, on a regular basis, assess the successes and failures of implementation in key areas and, if necessary, provide new political impetus.

### FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

**112.** The two sides will work closely together to secure appropriate funding, and to enhance the accessibility of financing sources, to give effect to this Joint Strategy and its successive Action Plans.

**113.** The implementation of the Joint Strategy and the initiatives to be developed in this framework will be supported by existing financial instruments in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to the objectives and activities concerned, such as the European Development Fund (EDF), the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI), the Instrument for Stability, as well as the Thematic Programmes and by EU financial institutions, such as the European Investment Bank (EIB). Where possible these instruments will be complemented by further contributions by

EU Member States. Moreover, whenever possible, African financial instruments and AU Member States shall contribute to this process and an involvement of African financial institutions such as the African Development Bank will be ensured as appropriate.

**114.** In order to ensure the effective use of instruments in this innovative Africa-EU cooperation framework and to ensure that they enable partners to meet the goals of the strategic partnership, the complementarity and coherence of these instruments will be properly ensured. To this end, partners will work together towards gradually adapting relevant policies and legal and financial frameworks, as well as relevant cooperation instruments and mechanisms, to the needs and objectives of the partnership. In particular, Africa and the EU will work together to build synergies between existing cooperation agreements in support of the partnership, including through the progressive establishment of a Pan-African financial support programme.

#### **MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW MECHANISMS**

**115.** The Joint Strategy is for the long term and shall be reviewed on a regular basis and as appropriate.

**116.** The two Commissions and the EU Council Secretariat will – on an annual basis and in cooperation with the AU and EU Presidencies – coordinate the preparation of a joint report on the progress made in the implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, focusing on the policies and actions outlined in the Action Plans and using clear indicators and concrete benchmarks and timetables to ensure that implementation is on track. These reports will be presented to the Africa-EU Ministerial Troika meetings which will monitor progress and ensure that implementation is on track: every third year, these reports will be presented to Heads of State and Government, meeting at Summit level, alternately in the EU and in Africa.

**117.** In parallel, the European Parliament and the Pan-African Parliament are invited to organise joint hearings and to prepare political reports on progress made.

**118.** Finally, and in order to ensure a wide ownership of the process and transparency in the monitoring, civil society organisations in the EU, Africa and beyond are invited to prepare general and sector-specific reports, the conclusions of which will be taken into account in the progress reports prepared by the two Commissions and the EU Council Secretariat and inform the further implementation of the Joint Strategy.



## Lisbon declaration

# EU Africa Summit

(LISBON, 8-9 DECEMBER, 2007)

**The Lisbon** Summit, bringing together the European Union and Africa, has offered us a unique opportunity jointly to address the common contemporary challenges for our continents, in the year that we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the European integration and the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the independence of Africa.

**We have** come together in awareness of the lessons and experiences of the past, but also in the certainty that our common future requires an audacious approach, one that allows us to face with confidence the demands of our globalizing world.

**Since our** first gathering in 2000 in Cairo, much has changed. In Africa we have witnessed the creation of the African Union, which offers a new continental framework for addressing African issues and has become a recognised voice for the continent, and of its economic instrument, NEPAD. In Europe, the EU has grown in membership and scope, deepening its process of integration and acquiring new responsibilities in the world. On a global scale, we have today an increased understanding of our vital interdependence and are determined to work together in the global arena on the key political challenges of our time, such as energy and climate change, migration or gender issues.

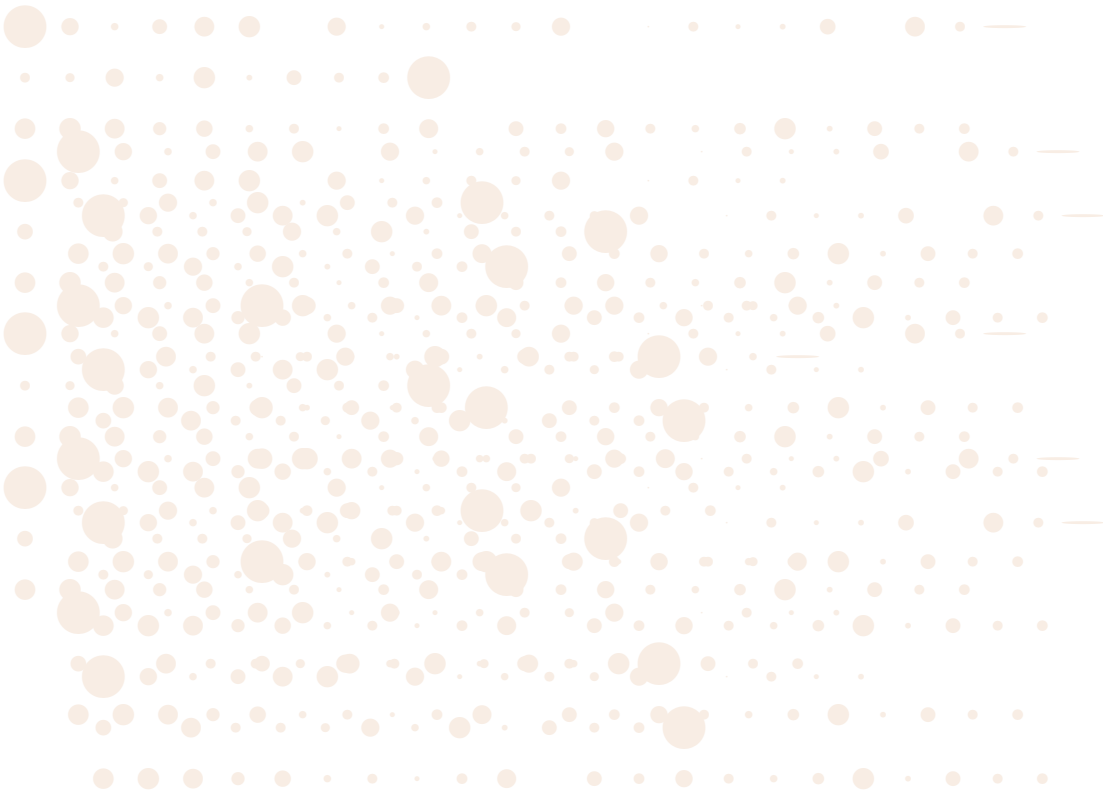
**In recognition** of our ambitions, and of all that we share today and have shared in the past, we are resolved to build a new strategic political partnership for the future, overcoming the traditional donor-recipient relationship and building on common values and goals in our pursuit of peace and stability, democracy and rule of law, progress and development.

**We will** develop this partnership of equals, based on the effective engagement of our societies, in order to achieve significant results in our fundamental commitments, namely: the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals; the establishment of a robust peace and security architecture in Africa; the strengthening of investment, growth and prosperity through regional integration and closer economic ties; the promotion of good governance and

human rights; and the creation of opportunities for shaping global governance in an open and multilateral framework.

**We are** determined to give this new strategic partnership the necessary means and instruments that will enable it to fulfil the Joint Strategy and the Action Plan that we have adopted today, and to do so we have created a comprehensive and effective follow-up mechanism that can deliver on these goals and show us the results on the occasion of the Third Summit that shall be held in 2010.

**We believe** that this Summit will be remembered as a moment of recognition of maturity and transformation in our continent to continent dialogue, opening new paths and opportunities for collective action for our common future.





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The views expressed in this publication are the author's and do not necessarily reflect those of the Council of Europe.



## Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission  
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth

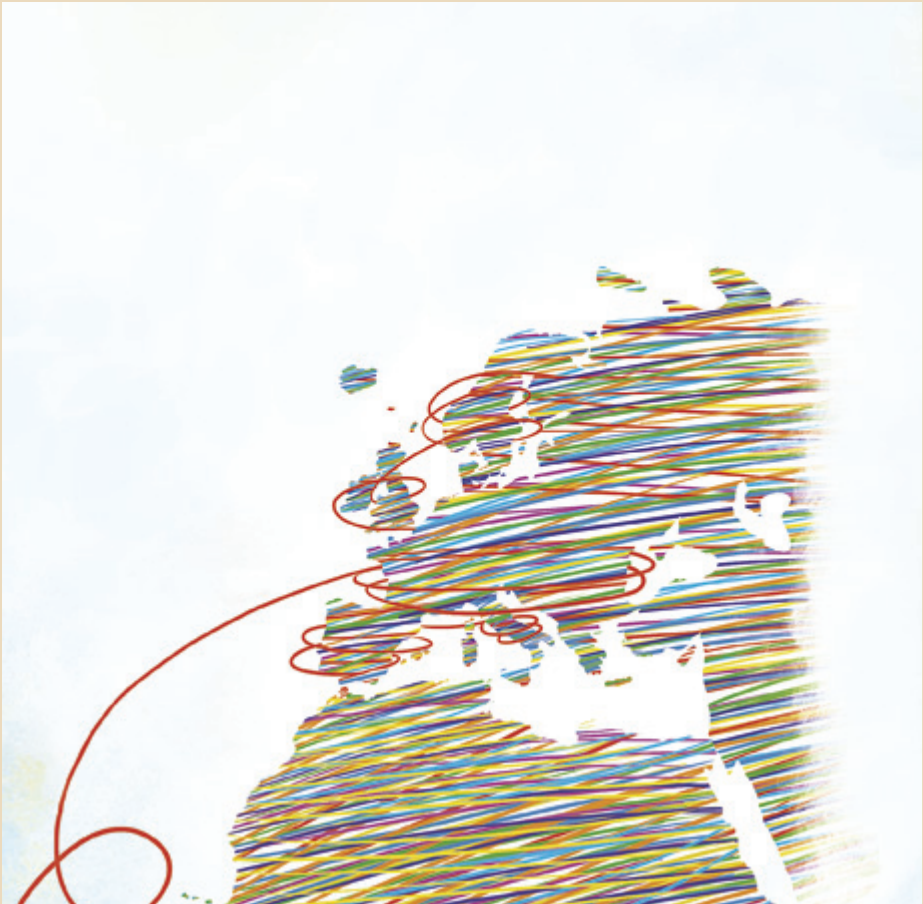


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# Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation Programme



**NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE**  
**CENTRE NORD-SUD**



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